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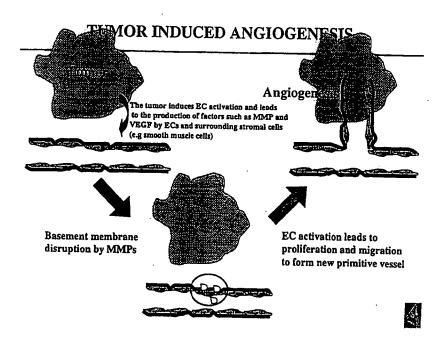
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(54) Title: METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR INHIBITING ANGIOGENESIS



(57) Abstract

Disclosed are methods for inhibiting angiogenesis using cyclin dependent kinase inhibitors (CDKi) and fusion proteins thereof, recombinant viruses comprising transgenes and nucleic acid sequences encoding the same, and liposomes carrying the same as angiogenesis—inhibiting reagents.

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METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR INHIBITING ANGIOGENESIS

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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This invention relates to the inhibition of angiogenesis, particularly the inhibition of angiogenesis in angiogenesis-associated conditions including, without limitation, neoplasia, rheumatoid arthritis, endometriosis, psoriasis, and vascular retinopathies.

Summary of the Related Art

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vessels. During the process of angiogenesis, endothelial cells which exist in a quiescent state as part of an existing blood vessel grow and enter a migratory, proliferative state. This migratory, proliferative state of endothelial cells undergoing angiogenesis is eventually resolved when the cells return to the

The process of angiogenesis results in the formation of new blood

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quiescent state as part of a functional new blood vessel. The process of angiogenesis is orchestrated by a complex network of multiple macromolecular interactions. Some essential angiogenic factors include fibroblast growth factor-basic (bFGF), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), the Angiopoietins (Ang

- ½/3/4), cytokines, extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins, and matrix metalloproteases (MMP). These factors are produced locally by stromal cells

(e.g., smooth muscle cells, pericytes, fibroblasts) and by activated leukocytes that are recruited to the area (Risau, W. (1997) *Nature* 386(6626):671-674; Risau and Flamme (1995) *Ann. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol.* 11:73-91).

The interplay of growth factors (e.g., VEGF and Ang-2) and surface protein-ECM interactions (e.g., ανβ3/5 interactions with both collagen and matrix metalloprotease-2) drive the process of angiogenesis through a predictable sequence of events. Activation of endothelial cells by proangiogenic stimuli results in vasodilation, hyperpermeability, and local release of proteases which degrade the basement membrane and ECM. This allows the formation of a provisional fibrin matrix, which provides a primary scaffold for the assembly of early microvessels. Motogenic endothelial cells sprout into the matrix and migrate with controlled matrix degradation at the tip. Proliferation occurs proximal to migration with formation of a primitive tube. Extensive remodeling ensues until the new capillary matures and anastomoses (i.e., fuses and joins) with other sprouts (Risau, W. (1997) Nature 386(6626):671-674; Risau and Flamme (1995) Ann. Rev. Cell Dev. Biol. 11:73-91).

Angiogenesis is stimulated and harnessed by some neoplasms (e.g., tumors) to increase nutrient uptake. However, in contrast to normal angiogenesis, which leads to anastomoses and capillary maturation, angiogenesis associated with neoplasia is a continuous process. Endothelial cells are activated by nearby neoplastic cells to secrete not only VEGF which stimulates angiogenesis, but also matrix metalloproteases (MMP) which degrade the surrounding extracellular matrix. The endothelial cells then invade the extracellular matrix where they proliferate, migrate, and organize to form new blood vessels, which support neoplasm growth and survival.

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The newly vascularized neoplasm continues to grow, leading to further nutrient deprivation and chronic pro-angiogenic signaling. The vasculature of neoplasms is characterized by the presence of lacunae and a low rate of anastomosis. This partially dysfunctional vasculature fuels the permanent requirement for angiogenesis. Additionally, this incomplete vasculature allows the shedding of neoplastic cells into the systemic circulation. Hence, the angiogenic potential of a neoplasm correlates with metastatic potential (Weidner et al. (1991) N. Engl. J. Med. 324(1):1-8; Folkman and Shing (1992) J. Biol. Chem. 267(16):10931-10934). As a significant proportion of neoplasms are dependent on continued angiogenesis, inhibition of angiogenesis blocks neoplasm growth which often leads to complete necrosis of the neoplasm. (Weidner et al. (1991) N. Engl. J. Med. 324(1):1-8; Folkman and Shing (1992) J. Biol. Chem. 267(16):10931-10934). Thus, methods or reagents for inhibiting angiogenesis associated with neoplasia could represent a viable anti-neoplasia therapy.

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Other disease conditions are characterized by aberrant levels of angiogenesis. For example, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an inflammatory disease associated with intense angiogenesis (see, e.g., Jackson et al. (1988) Ann. Rheum. Dis. 57(3):158-161). Another angiogenesis-associated condition is psoriasis, a chronic skin disorder that affects one in fifty people world wide and over five million people in the United States. The most common form of the disease is called plaque psoriasis or psoriasis vulgaris. Other forms are pustular, guttate, inverse, and erythrodermic psoriasis.

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Yet another angiogenesis-associated condition is vascular retinopathy, which includes diabetic retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion, retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), exudative age-related macular degeneration, sickle cell retinopathy, and radiation retinopathy (see, e.g., Aiello, L.P. (1997) Curr. Opin.

Ophthalmol. 8(3):19-31; Pierce et al. (1994) Int. Ophth. Clinics 34:121-148). An additional angiogenesis-associated condition is endometriosis (see, e.g., Abulafia and Sherer (1999) Obstet. Gynecol. 94(1):148-153; Healy (1998) Hum. Reprod. Update 4(5):736-740). Thus, there exists a need to control angiogenesis as a means for treating and/or alleviating the symptoms of angiogenesis-associated conditions.

There are a number of known reagents that inhibit angiogenesis that have

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been used for various conditions associated with angiogenesis. For example, O'Reilly et al. teach that isolated endostatin protein is allegedly an inhibitor of endothelial cell proliferation and angiogenesis (O'Reilly et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,854,205). Another compound with alleged anti-angiogenesis activity is heparin or heparin fragments (Folkman et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,994,443). O'Reilly et al. also teach that angiostatin can allegedly reversibly inhibit proliferation of endothelial cells (O'Reilly et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,733,876). However, many of the known anti-angiogenesis reagents and therapies have limitations. For example, for ROP, a common cause of blindness in children, two therapeutic methods, cryotherapy and laser therapy, are not completely effective and themselves cause damage to the eye, resulting in a reduction of vision (Pierce et al. (1994) Int. Ophth. Clinics 34:121-148).

Therefore, there still exists a need for improved reagents that reduce angiogenesis while overcoming the shortcomings of known reagents for inhibiting angiogenesis. Such novel reagents and methods for using them are useful for treating conditions associated with angiogenesis including, without limitation, neoplasia, rheumatoid arthritis, endometriosis, psoriasis, and vascular retinopathies.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides methods and reagents for inhibiting angiogenesis and allows for the treatment of various angiogenesis-associated conditions.

It has been discovered that cyclin dependent kinase inhibitors (CDKi's) can inhibit angiogenesis. This discovery has been exploited to develop the present invention which includes methods and compositions for inhibiting angiogenesis.

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In a first aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising introducing into a target endothelial cell an effective amount of a recombinant virus that comprises a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor (CDKi), wherein proliferation and/or migration of the endothelial cell is inhibited. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is derived from a mammal (e.g., a human). In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain embodiment, the transgene encodes a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor which can be internalized by a cell. In certain embodiments, the cyclin dependant kinase inhibitor is secretable.

In a certain preferred embodiment, the transgene encodes a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor which is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain

embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the active fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W8, W9, or W10. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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In a preferred embodiment, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus, such as a vaccinia virus. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacks an essential viral protein-encoding sequence. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus is replication-deficient. In one embodiment, the replication-deficient recombinant virus lacks a functional E1 region. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacking the functional E1 region additionally lacks a functional second region, such as an E2 region, an E3 region, or an E4 region.

In a certain embodiment of the first aspect of the invention, the endothelial cell is in a mammal. In a certain embodiment, the mammal is afflicted with a condition associated with angiogenesis, which causes proliferation and/or migration of endothelial cells. In certain embodiments, the condition is neoplasia, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, vascular retinopathy, or endometriosis. In one embodiment, the condition is neoplasia. In the case of neoplasia, the angiogenesis is stimulated by factors produced by a tumor.

In a second aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising contacting an endothelial cell with an effective amount of a liposome that comprises a transgene encoding a mammalian cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the transgene is internalized by the endothelial cell, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the contacted endothelial cell is inhibited. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof.

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In a certain embodiment of the second aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises

an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the active fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9.

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In certain embodiments of the second aspect of the invention, the liposome contains on its external surface a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on the endothelial cell, wherein binding of the molecule to the cell surface protein facilitates the internalization. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is internalizable. In certain embodiments, the internalizable cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is secretable.

In a third aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis, comprising contacting a target endothelial cell with a mammalian internalizable cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the target endothelial cell is inhibited, and wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, and a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of the protein from the INK4 family and at least an active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family. In some embodiments, the active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family is amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein or amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In one embodiment, the cyclin dependent

kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a preferred embodiment, the cell internalizes

the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In certain embodiments, the method further comprises delivering a transgene encoding the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor to an auxiliary cell, wherein the transgene is expressed by the auxiliary cell to produce the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the auxiliary cell releases the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor into the blood and wherein the bloodborne cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor contacts the target endothelial cell. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor comprises a secretable segment and the auxiliary cell releases the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor by secretion.

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In a fourth aspect, the invention provides a purified internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

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In a certain embodiment of the fourth aspect of the invention, the purified internalizable form of the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family,

wherein the active fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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In a fifth aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a condition associated with angiogenesis. In this method, a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic composition comprising a purified internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is administered to a patient having or suspected of having the condition.

In a sixth aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a condition associated with angiogenesis wherein a therapeutically effective amount of a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is administered to a patient having or suspected of having the condition. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment

thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

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In a certain embodiment of the sixth aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

In a particular embodiment of the sixth aspect of the invention, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus, such as a vaccinia virus. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacks an essential viral protein-encoding sequence. In a certain embodiment, the

adenovirus is replication-deficient, preferably because it lacks a functional E1 region. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacking the functional E1 region additionally lacks a functional second region, such as an E2 region, an E3 region, or an E4 region. In a certain embodiment, the recombinant virus expresses on its external surface a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on the endothelial cell, wherein binding of the molecule to the cell surface protein facilitates the transduction of the endothelial cell by the recombinant virus.

In a seventh aspect, the invention provides a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the recombinant virus is an adenovirus lacking an E1 region, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus, such as a vaccinia virus. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

In a certain embodiment of the seventh aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the

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CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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In an eighth aspect, the invention provides a liposome comprising a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

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In a certain embodiment of the eighth aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active

fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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In a ninth aspect, the invention provides a nucleic acid composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a regulatory sequence which regulates cellular expression of the nucleic acid sequence. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence encodes a secretion signal.

In a tenth aspect, the invention provides a therapeutic composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a regulatory sequence which regulates cellular expression of the

nucleic acid sequence, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In one embodiment, the therapeutic composition further comprises a delivery system that facilitates the internalization of the composition by an endothelial cell. In certain embodiments, the delivery system is a liposome comprising the nucleic acid composition. In certain embodiments, the delivery system is a recombinant virus comprising the nucleic acid composition. In preferred embodiments, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence also encodes a secretion signal.

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In an eleventh aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a patient having or suspected of having a condition associated with angiogenesis comprising delivering a therapeutically effective amount of a transgene encoding a secretable, internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor to cells of the patient that are in close proximity to endothelial cells affected by the condition. In one embodiment, the therapeutic composition further comprises a delivery system that facilitates the internalization of the composition by an endothelial cell. In certain embodiments, the delivery system is a liposome comprising the transgene. In certain embodiments, the delivery system is a recombinant virus comprising the transgene. In preferred embodiments, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects of the present invention, the various features thereof, as well as the invention itself may be more fully understood from the following description, when read together with the accompanying drawings in which:

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Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation showing the steps involved in tumor-induced angiogenesis. Endothelial cells and possibly smooth muscle cells are induced by nearby tumor cells to secrete VEGF and MMP. The endothelial cells then invade the extracellular matrix where they proliferate and organize to form new blood vessels;

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic representation of an adeno-associated viral (AAV) vector containing a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention;

Figure 3A is a schematic representation of an HSV-based amplicon, according to the invention, which contains a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, a W9-encoding nucleic acid sequence operably linked to appropriate regulatory sequences;

Figure 3B is a schematic representation of an HSV-1-based vector, according to the invention, which contains a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, replacing the ICP22 HSV gene;

Figure 4A is a schematic representation of an SV-40 vector (pSV MD W9) according to the invention, which includes a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, and the SV-40 origin of replication;

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Figure 4B is a schematic representation of an SV-40-based vector (pSV MD W9 II), according to the invention, which includes a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, the SV-40 origin of replication, and viral late genes;

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Figure 5 is a schematic representation of a vaccinia virus vector including a vaccinia virus promoter, a transgene encoding W9, a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, and a termination sequence;

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Figure 6 is a diagrammatic representation showing representative, non-limiting recombinant CDK inhibitors of the invention tested in *in vitro* kinase assays. The p16 molecule is indicated by the open box; the p27 molecule and its derivatives are indicated by the hatched boxes; and the 15 amino acids long (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker between the p16 and p27 moieties is indicated by the black boxes. Above the schematic for each molecule is the corresponding 5' and 3' amino acid from the parental molecule. The table in the middle shows the IC₅₀'s (in nM) of the purified inhibitors as determined by *in vitro* kinase assays that utilized CDK4/cyclin D1, CDK2/cyclin E, and CDC2/cyclin B kinases. At the right of Fig. 6 is listed the estimated half-life of the adenovirus expressed CDKi protein (in hours) as measured by pulse-chase experiments;

Figure 7 is a diagrammatic representation of the genomic structure of a representative, non-limiting recombinant adenovirus that expresses a CDKi of the invention. The expression of the inhibitors is regulated by the CMV enhancer and promoter and the SV40 poly A sequence. The ATG is in the context of the optimal Kozak sequence;

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of smooth muscle cells with recombinant adenovirus expressing LacZ operably linked to the CMV promoter. Nonproliferating human aortic smooth muscle cells (AoSMC), CASMC, or HeLa cells were either mock treated or transduced with Ad-CMV-Lac-Z at MOI of 10, 30 and 100. Five days later, the percentage β -gal positive cells were determined by flow cytometry following staining with FDG substrate (Sigma). Both AoSMC and CASMC showed greater than 95% transduction efficiency at all the MOI tested;

Figure 8A is a graphic representation showing the transduction efficiency

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Figure 8B is a graphic representation showing the transduction efficiency of endothelial cells with recombinant adenovirus expressing LacZ operably linked to the CMV promoter. Nonproliferating human coronary artery endothelial cells (CAECs) or HeLa cells were either mock treated or transduced with AV-CMV-Lac-Z at MOI of 10, 30 and 100. Two days later, the percentage of β -gal positive cells was determined by flow cytometry following staining with FDG substrate (Sigma). CAEC showed greater than 90% transduction efficiency at all the MOI tested:

Figure 9 is a graphic representation showing the inhibition of cell growth of synchronously growing CASMC by various AV-CDKi. CASMC's were made

quiescent by incubation in low serum conditions and transduced with the indicated AV-CDKi's at MOI's of 1 to 250. The next day, cells were stimulated to enter the cell cycle by addition of 10% serum to the media. Cells were harvested 3 days after restimulation with serum-containing media and counted from duplicate wells. The dashed line represents starting cell number;

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Figure 10A shows a series of DNA histograms comparing CASMC's transduced with recombinant adenovirus encoding the various indicated CDKi or Null (*i.e.*, AV-CMV) at 50 MOI. Twenty-four hours after transduction, virus was removed, and the cells were restimulated with 10% FBS-containing media. Three days later, the cells were fixed and stained with propidium iodide, and then subjected to FACscan analysis. Cells that were kept in 0.05% FBS for 48 hours (Serum Low) as well as cells that were treated with nothing (Mock Control), n-butyrate (early G_1 block), or aphidicolin (early S block) were also analyzed for DNA content as control profiles;

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Figure 10B is a schematic representation of a series of bar graphs comparing the cell cycle distributions (*i.e.*, G_2/M phase, S phase, or G_1 phase) of the CASMCs transduced with 1, 10, 50, or 100 MOI of with recombinant adenovirus encoding the indicated CDKi or Null (*i.e.*, AV-CMV), or no adenovirus (Mock). The proportion of cells in the different cell cycle stages was determined for mock transduced and adenovirus transduced (1-100 MOI) CASMC. The upper panel shows the percentage of cells in G_2/M phase; the middle panel shows the percentage of cells in S phase; the lower panel shows the percentage of cells in G_1 phase;

Figure 11A is a graphic representation showing the inhibition of cell growth of synchronously growing CAEC by various AV-CDKi. Quiescent CAEC's were transduced with AV-CDKi at 10 MOI. The next day, virus was removed, and the cells were stimulated to enter the cell cycle by addition of 10% serum to the media. Cells were harvested 3 days later and counted. The dashed line represents starting cell number at time of transduction;

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Figure 11B is a graphic representation showing the inhibition of cell growth of asynchronous CAEC by various AV-CDKi. CAEC's were seeded in 6 well dishes and transduced the next day with indicated AV-CDKi at 10 MOI. Virus was removed on the following day, and the cells returned to full serum containing media. Cells were harvested 2 days later and counted. The dashed line represents starting cell number at the time of transduction;

Figure 12 is a representation of nine photographs showing the angiogenesis-inhibiting effects of AV-W9 and AV-p16 in the aortic ring sprouting assay. Aortic rings prepared from 4-6 week old rats were transduced with AV-CMV ("NULL"), AV-p16, and AV-W9 with 5×10^{10} viral particles, 2.5×10^{10} viral particle, and 5×10^9 viral particles;

Figure 13A is a photographic representation showing the angiogenesisinhibiting effect of AV-W9 in a matrigel tube assay, where HUVEC have been treated with basic fibroblast growth factor;

Figure 13B is a photographic representation showing the angiogenesisinhibiting effect of AV-W9 in a matrigel tube assay, where HUVEC have been

transduced with 5×10^4 AV-CMV (which contains only the CMV promoter) viral particles per cell;

Figure 13C is a photographic representation showing the angiogenesis-inhibiting effect of AV-W9 in a matrigel tube assay, where HUVEC have been transduced with 5×10^4 AV-W9 viral particles per cell;

Figure 14A is a schematic representation of a recombinant lentivirus vector, according to the invention, which contains a nucleic acid sequence encoding a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, W9, operably linked to regulatory sequences and flanked by HIV LTRs;

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Figure 14B is a schematic representation of a recombinant, selfinactivating lentiviral vector according to the invention, which contains a nucleic acid sequence encoding a non-limiting representative CDKi of the invention, W9, operably linked to regulatory sequences; and

Figure 15A is a diagrammatic representation of a representative secretable, internalizable form of W9 containing a signal sequence peptide from the murine immunoglobulin heavy chain gene;

Figure 15B is a diagrammatic representation of a representative secretable, internalizable form of W9 containing a signal sequence peptide from the human immunoglobulin heavy chain gene; and

Figure 15C is a diagrammatic representation of a representative secretable, internalizable form of W9 containing a signal sequence form the human serum albumin gene.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The patent and scientific literature referred to herein establishes knowledge that is available to those with skill in the art. The issued patents, applications, and references, including GenBank database sequences, that are cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference. Any conflict between any reference cited herein and the specific teachings of this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter. Likewise, any conflict between an art-understood definition of a word or phrase and a definition of the word or phrase as specifically taught in this specification shall be resolved in favor of the latter.

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The invention provides methods and compositions for inhibiting angiogenesis. In addition, therapeutic compositions for treating a condition associated with increased angiogenesis may be developed using the methods and reagents of the invention. Moreover, the process of angiogenesis can be better understood and studied using the methods and reagents of the invention. Thus, the reagents according to the invention are useful as analytical tools and as therapeutic tools, such as gene therapy tools. The invention also provides methods and compositions which may be manipulated and fine-tuned to fit the condition(s) to be treated.

Accordingly, in a first aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising introducing into an endothelial cell an effective amount of a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the endothelial cell is inhibited.

Cyclin dependent kinase inhibitors (CDKi's) are proteins which regulate the activity of cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK)/cyclin complexes which play a key role in the cell cycle. CDK/cyclin complexes are comprised of a catalytic kinase subunit (such as cdc2, CDK2, CDK4, or CDK6) with one of a variety of regulatory cyclin subunits (such as cyclin A, B1, B2, D1, D2, D3, or E) which results in the assembly of functionally distinct CDK/cyclin complexes.

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Thus, in accordance with the invention, by "cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor (CDKi)" is meant any protein which inhibits and/or regulates a CDK/cyclin complex. The definition includes, without limitation, proteins from the CIP/KIP family of CDKi proteins which includes, without limitation, human p27^{kip1} (GenBank Accession No. U10906, Polyak et al. (1994) Cell 78:56-66); murine p27kipl (GenBank Accession No. U09968, Polyak et al. (1994) Cell 78:56-66); rat p27^{kip1} (GenBank Accession Nos. D86924 and D83792, Nomura et al. (1997) Gene 191(2):211-218); human p57KIP2 (GenBank Accession No. NM_000076, Matsuoka et al. (1995) Genes Dev. 9(6):650-662); murine p57KIP2 (GenBank Accession No. U20553, Lee et al. (1995) Genes Dev. 9(6):639-649); canine p2lWaf1/Cip1 (GenBank Accession No. AF076469); and human p2lWaf1/Cip1 (GenBank Accession No. L25610; Harper et al. (1993) Cell 75:806-816, 1993); as well as proteins from the INK4 family of CDKi proteins which includes, without limitation, human p18^{CDKN2C} (GenBank Accession Nos. AF041248 and NM_001262, Blais et al. (1998) Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 247(1):146-153); human Cdi1 (GenBank Accession No. NM_005192, Gyuris et al. (1993) Cell 75(4):791-803); human p19^{INK4d} (GenBank Accession No. NM_001800, Guan et al. (1996) Mol. Biol. Cell 7(1):57-70); human p15 (GenBank Accession No. S75756, Jen et al. (1994) Cancer Res. 54(24):6353-6358); murine p15^{INK4b} (GenBank Accession Nos. U80415, U79634, and U79639); murine p16^{lnk4/MTS1} (GenBank Accession

Nos. AF044336 and AF044335, Zhang et al. (1998) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 95(5):2429-2434); and human p16^{INK4} (GenBank Accession No. NM_000077; Serrano et al. (1993) *Nature* 366(6456):704-707 and Okamoto et al. (1994) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91(23):11045-11049). Exemplary CDKi's according to the invention are the fusion proteins described herein and described in PCT Publication No. WO99/06540, hereby incorporated by reference.

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By "angiogenesis" is meant the growth of a new blood vessel in which the proliferation and/or migration of an endothelial cell is a key step. One nonlimiting example of angiogenesis is schematically depicted in Fig. 1. By "inhibiting angiogenesis" is meant the inhibition of any of the steps of the process of angiogenesis that includes, without limitation, proliferation and/or migration of endothelial cells. By "an effective amount" is meant an amount of a CDKi of the invention, a gene encoding a CDKi, a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a CDKi, a liposome carrying a CDKi or transgene encoding a CDKi, as appropriate, that, when introduced into endothelial cells, is effective and sufficient for inhibiting proliferation and/or migration of those cells. One of skill in the art will appreciate that such an effective amount may be readily determined by comparing the inhibition of proliferation and/or migration of endothelial cells into which has been introduced a CDKi, a transgene encoding a CDKi, a liposome carrying a transgene or CDKi, or a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a CDKi, as compared to endothelial cells subjected to the same culture and/or in vivo conditions, but which have not received a CDKi, a transgene encoding a CDKi, a liposome carrying the CDKi or the transgene encoding a CDKi, or recombinant virus comprising the transgene according to the invention. Assays for measuring angiogenesis, and for measuring the inhibition of angiogenesis, are described

below and include, without limitation, the matrigel tube assay and the aortic ring sprouting assay.

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In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. By "active fragment" is meant a polypeptide that encompasses at least the amino acid sequence required for inhibition of the appropriate cyclin dependent kinase which is targeted by the indicated CDKi (e.g., for human p27, see, Russo et. al. (1998) Nature 395:237-243). In a preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

In a certain embodiment of the invention, angiogenesis is inhibited by transducing the cell with a recombinant virus that comprises a transgene encoding the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. By "transducing" is meant the introduction of exogenous nucleic acid into a cell using a recombinant virus. A recombinant virus is made by introducing appropriate viral vector sequences encoding a protein of interest into a packaging or complementing cell line. By "introducing" a nucleic acid into a cell is meant the introduction of exogenous nucleic acid into a cell by any means, including, without limitation, methods known in the art as transfection, transduction, infection, and transformation. For various techniques for manipulating mammalian cells, see Keown et al. (1990) Meth. Enzymol. 185:527-537.

By "transgene" is meant a nucleic acid sequence encoding a desired protein or polypeptide fragment operably linked to one or more regulatory

sequences such that the nucleic acid sequence is transcribed and translated when the transgene is introduced into a cell. Transgenes typically comprise in the following order a promoter/enhancer, protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence, and polyA signal. A polycistronic transgene comprising two protein encoding nucleic acid sequences separated by an IRES sequence is also within this definition. By "regulatory sequence" is meant nucleic acid sequences, such as initiation signals, polyadenylation (polyA) signals, promoters, and enhancers which control expression of protein coding sequences with which they are operably linked. By "operably linked" is meant that the nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein of interest and transcriptional regulatory sequences are connected in such a way as to permit expression of the nucleic acid sequence when introduced into a cell. By "expression" of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein is meant expression of an mRNA leading to production of that protein. Where a cell is transduced with a recombinant virus containing a transgene encoding a CDKi, it will be understood that the "effective amount" of the CDKi is determined by transducing the cell with an appropriate multiplicity of infection of virus. For example, if the endothelial cell to be transduced is in vitro, standard techniques (e.g., FACS analysis) may be employed to determined the percentage of CDKi-expressing cells.

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Any recombinant virus can be employed to deliver the transgene encoding CDKi of the invention. Preferably, the virus can transduce both dividing and non-dividing endothelial cells and confers to the transduced cell a high level of transgene expression. Thus, a variety of recombinant viruses may be engineered to encode and deliver the CDKi of the invention to endothelial cells to inhibit angiogenesis. For example, a CDKi of the invention may be packaged in a recombinant adenovirus, a recombinant lentivirus, a recombinant

retrovirus, a recombinant adeno-associated virus (AAV), a recombinant herpesvirus, a recombinant SV-40 virus, an Epstein-Barr virus, or a recombinant pox virus, such as, but not limited to, a recombinant vaccinia virus. Preferably, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus. Preferably, the adenovirus is replication-deficient. By "replication-deficient" is meant a recombinant virus that is unable to replicate in a cell other than a packaging cell. This can be accomplished, for example, when a replication-deficient adenovirus lacks a functional E1 region.

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In an embodiment in which the delivery virus is a recombinant adenovirus, the adenovirus may be of any isotype. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacks an essential viral protein-encoding sequence. The CDKiencoding sequences may be inserted into one of the sequences of the adenovirus genome whose removal is not lethal. One known sequence of the adenovirus genome that may be removed is the E1 region, which controls adenovirus replication. Other non-essential regions (or combinations thereof) may also be used (e.g., the CDKi-encoding transgene may be inserted into the E2, E3, and/or E4 regions). Promoter/enhancer sequences may be constitutively active (e.g., the CMV promoter or the EF1 α promoter), cell-type specific (e.g., a promoter of a VEGF-receptor gene that is specifically expressed by endothelial cells such as the VEGF-R1(Flt-1) gene promoter (GenBank Accession No.E13256) or the VEGF-R2 (Flk-1) gene promoter (GenBank Accession No. AF035121), or inducible (e.g., the cytokine-stimulated inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) gene promoter). Numerous promoter/enhancer sequences are well known and their sequences available, for example, in the GenBank database (National Center for Biotechnology Information, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD).

In a preferred embodiment, the adenovirus encoding the CDKi of the invention is replication-deficient, lacking a functional E1 region. One non-limiting way to make such a recombinant adenovirus expressing a CDKi protein is to replace the E1 region of a recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus type 5 (Ad5) vector with a CDKi-encoding transgene (e.g., a CDKi protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence operably linked to a CMV promoter/enhancer and an SV40 poly A signal). The recombinant vector is then packaged in 293 cells to produce infectious recombinant adenovirus particles.

The recombinant adenovirus encoding a CDKi of the invention may be used to transduce cells in vivo or in vitro. Such administration may be standardized by determining the multiplicity of infection (MOI) of the recombinant adenovirus, or by determining the actual number of viral particles based on the amount of viral DNA. Such standardization of viral particles is routine and is generally described in Phillipson et al., Molecular Biology of Adenoviruses, Virology Monograph, Springer Verlag, New York, NY, 1975.

Both amphotropic and ecotropic recombinant retroviral vectors that may be used to generate recombinant retroviral particles have been described in the art. Accordingly, a nucleic acid sequence encoding CDKi fusion protein of the invention operably linked to an appropriate regulatory sequence (e.g., a CMV promoter and/or a SV40 poly A signal) may be inserted into a retroviral vector using standard techniques. The resulting CDKi-encoding vector may then be packaged in an appropriate packaging cell line to generate recombinant retrovirus encoding a CDKi fusion protein of the invention. For a standard retrovirus, such as a Moloney murine leukemia virus (MMLV), recombinant MMLV encoding a CDKi protein of the invention may be generated. In a standard MMLV transfer vector, such as the rkat43.3 vector (Finer et al. (1994)

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Blood 83:43-50), the transgene is inserted between the gag-encoding region and the 3' LTR. A standard MMLV transfer vector has a 7 kB transgene capacity.

Where the virus is an adeno-associated virus (AAV), standard recombinant DNA techniques may be employed to generate recombinant AAV encoding a CDKi protein of the invention. Recombinant AAV can be made by transfecting a producer cell with two trans-complementing plasmids, one plasmid encoding the rep and cap proteins, and the other plasmid encoding the transgene with the AAV inverted terminal repeat (ITR) sequences. The transfected producer cell line then produces recombinant AAV infectious viral particles, which can be used to transduce cells. The transgene size capacity of an AAV transgene-ITR plasmid is typically approximately 4.5 kB. One exemplary CDKi protein of the invention, W9, is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is less than 0.7 kB. Thus, a transgene encompassing, for example, in the following or a CMV promoter/enhancer, CDKi-encoding nucleic acid sequence, IRES sequence, and SV40 polyA signal may be readily accommodated by a standard AAV transgene-ITR plasmid and may be used to generate recombinant AAV particles.

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Fig. 2 depicts a representative AAV vector in which a transgene encoding the W9 fusion protein lies between the inverted terminal repeats (ITR) of AAV. The W9 protein-encoding transgene comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding the W9 fusion protein operably linked at the 5' end to cytomegalovirus (CMV) immediate early gene promoter/enhancer (Genbank Accession No. X03922) from pBC12/CMV/IL-2 (Cullen (1986) Cell 46:973-982), a shortened second intervening sequence (IVS2; helps process the resulting mRNA), and at the 3' end to a poly adenylation signal. Recombinant AAV may be produced by cotransfecting this AAV vector together with an AAV helper plasmid into 293

cells and then infecting the transfected 293 cells with adenovirus d1312 as described in Samulski et al. (1989) J. Virol. 63:3822-3828.

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Fig. 3A depicts a representative herpesvirus (HSV)-based construct or amplicon which contains a transgene comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an exemplary CDKi protein of the invention (e.g., the W9 fusion protein) operably linked to exemplary regulatory sequences. The HSV "a" and ori sequences permit replication and packaging of recombinant HSV in complementing cells infected with the d120 helper virus. The complementing cells supply ICP4 function missing from the d120 (see, e.g., Spete et al. (1982) Cell 30:295-304).

Another useful herpesvirus vector is the HSV-1 based vector depicted in Fig. 3B. Many regions of the HSV genome not needed for growth in cultured cells can be removed and a transgene encoding a fusion CDKi of the invention substituted in. In the non-limiting example shown, the ICP22 gene has been substituted with a W9 fusion protein-encoding transgene. This transgene comprises a CMV promoter, a β globin IVS (to help process the resulting mRNA), W9-encoding cDNA, and a β-globin polyA site. The resulting vector is defective for growth on normal cells, as the ICP4 genes in the vector have also been removed. This vector may be packaged in a cell line such as 7B (which provides the ICP4 and ICP27 proteins) to generate recombinant herpes virus particles that encode W9 and allow expression of W9 protein in a transduced cell (see, e.g., Glorioso et al. (1995) Ann. Rev. Microbiol. 49:675-710).

Fig. 4A illustrates a representative SV40-based W9 vector which contains a W9-encoding transgene comprising the following operably linked nucleic acid sequences: a CMV promoter, a β globin IVS, W9-encoding cDNA, and a β -globin polyA site. The vector also contains the SV-40 ori (SV-40 nucleotides

5177-290). The total size of the plasmid is preferably less than 5243 bases and packaging can be accomplished, for example, in COS-7 cells according to Fang et al. (1997) *Analyt. Biochem.* 254:139-143.

An alternative SV-40 based recombinant vector is shown in Fig. 4B and includes a W9-encoding transgene, and the SV-40 ori plus the viral late genes (SV-40 nucleotides 5177-2770). The total size of the vector is preferably less than 5243 bases. Packaging of the vector can be accomplished, for example, in COS-7 cells as described in Fang et al. (1997) *Analyt. Biochem.* 254:139-143). This vector can be generated from a larger plasmid containing a plasmid origin and selectable marker. The sequences are removed by restriction digestion, and the ends of the vector fragment are joined to make a circle by T4 DNA ligase.

Recombinant Epstein Barr viruses can also be used to deliver the CDKi of the invention to endothelial cells (see, e.g., Robertson et al. (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **93(21)**:11334-11340, and Shimizu (1996) *J. Virol.* **70(10)**:7260-7263).

The vaccinia virus expression cassette shown in Fig. 5 is also useful in the methods of the invention. As vaccinia viruses do not rely on the host cell's expression machinery, the inserted transgene (e.g., nucleic acid sequence encoding a CDKi fusion protein operably linked to appropriate regulatory sequences) must be flanked with the appropriate vaccinia sequences. The promoter is preferably a vaccinia virus promoter, such as H6 which is active in both early and late phases of the vaccinia virus life cycle. Additionally, after the inserted nucleic acid, a termination sequence of TTTTTNT is required in the early phase. Using homologous recombination, this vaccinia virus expression cassette, which consists of a CDKi fusion protein-encoding nucleic acid sequence operably linked to regulatory sequences derived from the vaccinia virus, can be inserted into any region of the vaccinia genome which is

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dispensable for growth in cells (see, e.g., Perkus et al. (1989) J. Virol. 63:3829-3836).

It should be noted that where a recombinant virus is used to deliver the transgene encoding the CDKi of the invention, the inserted transgene may also use regulatory sequences endogenous to the virus (e.g., a viral promoter/enhancer).

In a certain embodiment of the first aspect of the invention, the endothelial cell is in a mammal. In a certain embodiment, the endothelial cell is a cultured endothelial cell.

In a certain preferred embodiment of the first aspect of the invention, the endothelial cell to which the transgene encoding a CDKi of the invention is later administered is an endothelial cell that is induced to proliferate and/or migrate by a condition associated with angiogenesis.

In particular embodiments, the angiogenesis-associated condition is neoplasia, rheumatoid arthritis, vascular retinopathy, or endometriosis. By "neoplasia" is meant a condition involving any tissue or organ that shows aberrant growth. In one case, the aberrant cell growth of a neoplasm is due to increased cell growth. Thus, neoplasia includes hyperplasia, a growth of cells showing a lack of contact inhibition of growth *in vitro*, a benign tumor that is incapable of metastasis *in vivo*, or a cancer that is capable of metastases *in vivo* and that may recur after attempted removal. By "tumor angiogenesis" is meant angiogenesis induced by or stimulated by neoplasia.

There are several means by which tumor cells evade common anti-tumor therapies: tumor cells downregulate MHC molecules on their surface to evade immuno-surveillance by T cells; and tumor cells are also often radio-resistant (unaffected by radiation) or chemo-resistant (unaffected by normally toxic

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chemotherapeutic agents) because (mutated) proteins within the tumor cells lead to, for example, disruption of apoptotic or other programmed cell death pathways or removal of the chemotherapeutic drug from the cell. One example of a tumor cell protein that confers chemo-resistance is the multi-drug resistance (MDR) protein on the cell surface which "pumps" out chemotherapeutic drugs which would have to be within the cell to function. Similarly, tumor cells that lack functional retinoblastoma protein (Rb) are resistant to apoptosis induced by over expression of the CDKi p15, and tumor cells that have a normal p53 are not killed by over expression of p53. Finally, cells can become resistant to apoptosis due to defects in the caspase family of proteins which are critical components of the apoptotic pathway. These are just some examples of how tumors evade death. The antiangiogenic approaches of the present invention circumvent these evasion strategies because they do not target the tumor cells, but rather target downstream target cells that are required to form the vasculature that provides the tumor with its essential nutrients. Thus, the method of the first aspect of the invention includes an embodiment wherein the angiogenic condition is vascularization of neoplasia, wherein the tumor is insensitive to the anti-proliferative activity of p16, e.g., the cells are defective for the retinoblastoma protein (such as a loss of function mutation) or have a mutation in the CDK4 or CDK6 gene which disrupts binding of the encoded proteins with p16 protein.

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Accordingly, the recombinant virus comprising CDKi of the invention may be administered to an individual having, or suspected of having a condition associated with angiogenesis. In one example, the angiogenesis-inhibiting reagents and compositions of the invention are administered to an individual within a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent, carrier, or excipient, in unit dosage form according to conventional pharmaceutical practice. Administration may begin

before the individual is symptomatic. If desired, treatment of a cancer patient with the angiogenesis-inhibiting reagents and compositions of the invention may be combined with more traditional therapies or other angiogenesis-inhibiting reagents.

Recombinant viral particles, such as recombinant adenoviruses, carrying transgenes encoding a CDKi protein may be administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation systemically via the blood stream or lymphatic system. Preferably, recombinant viruses of the invention are administered locally to a site in close proximity to a cell affected by a condition associated with angiogenesis. Devices, including cannulas and i.v. lines, can be used to supply recombinant virus particles to an artery or vein lined with endothelial cells that are induced to proliferate and migrate by the condition associated with angiogenesis.

In a second aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising contacting an endothelial cell with an effective amount of a liposome that comprises a transgene encoding a mammalian cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the transgene is internalized by the endothelial cell, and wherein proliferation and/or migration of the contacted endothelial cell is inhibited.

In a certain preferred embodiment, the liposome contains on its external surface a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on the endothelial cell, wherein binding of the molecule to the cell surface protein facilitates the fusion of the endothelial cell with the liposome. Alternatively or additionally, the molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on the endothelial cell facilitates the DNA transfection of the endothelial cell by the liposome. By "external surface" of a liposome is meant the surface facing away from the interior of the liposome and, thus, away from the compartment of the liposome containing a CDKi of the invention, or a nucleic sequence encoding the same. Thus, a molecule

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expressed on the external surface of a liposome may be attached only to the outer leaflet of the exterior surface of the liposome, or may traverse the surface of the liposome, such that part of the molecule is expressed external to and part of the molecule is expressed internal to the liposome.

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By "cell surface protein" is meant a protein that is expressed and transported to the cell surface of an endothelial cell. Such a protein may be attached only to the outer leaflet of the cell membrane of an endothelial cell (e.g., a glycosylphosphatidylinositol-anchored protein), or may traverse the cell membrane. One example of a cell surface protein on an endothelial cell is the VEGF receptor.

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By "binds" is meant that the molecule on the external surface of the recombinant virus or liposome interacts with a cell surface protein on an endothelial cell such that the transgene contained by the recombinant virus or liposome is taken up by the endothelial cell.

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Liposomes, which closely resemble the lipid composition of natural cell membranes, can be generated which incorporate the transgene encoding a CDKi or, alternatively, the CDKi proteins of the invention. In the latter case, the CDKi protein need not be internalizable, as the liposome will fuse to the cell membrane of an endothelial cell, thereby depositing its contents into the cytoplasm of the cell. For example, the composition may first be packaged in a liposome that bears a surface positive charge. Upon delivery to a cell either *in vitro* or *in vivo*, the liposome will fuse with the cell membrane and deposit the protein contained within the liposome into the cytoplasm of the cell. Liposome packaging and delivery of proteins is well known (see, generally, Mouritsen and Jorgensen (1998) *Pharm. Res.* 15(10):1507-1519; Selzman et al. (1999) *Circ. Res.*

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84(8):867-875; and Zheng et al. (1999) AIDS Res. Hum. Retroviruses 15(11):1011-1020; Fong et al. (1997) J. Virol. Methods 66(1):149-157.

Liposomes containing a transgene encoding a CDKi of the invention can be formed such that the liposome expresses on its external surface a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on an endothelial cell (e.g., a VEGF molecule that is modified to comprise a transmembrane domain).

In one example where the molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on an endothelial cell is a transmembrane domain-containing VEGF protein, the VEGF-tm protein can be made in sufficient quantities by standard molecular biology techniques. For example, VEGF-encoding sequences are known (e.g., human VEGF sequence is available in GenBank Accession No. E15157, Uchida, K., Japanese Patent No. JP 1998052285-A), as are transmembrane domains (see, e.g., Romeo et al. (1992) Cell 68(5):889-897; Kolanus et al. (1993) Cell 74(1):171-183). To produce a VEGF-tm protein (i.e., a VEGF molecule modified to comprise a transmembrane domain), a VEGF-tm-encoding transgene (e.g., nucleic acid sequence encoding VEGF-tm operably linked to a regulatory sequences such that the VEGF-tm protein is expressed by a cell into which the nucleic acid sequence has been introduced) may be subcloned into any standard expression vector (e.g., bacteriophage, baculovirus vector or mammalian expression vector). The VEGF-tm-encoding expression vector may then be introduced into a host cell, such as a bacterium, an insect cell, or a mammalian cell, and the resulting VEGF-tm protein isolated and purified by standard techniques (e.g., HPLC, dialysis or immunoprecipitation).

To generate a CDKi-encoding transgene-containing liposome expressing a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on an endothelial cell, the molecule (e.g., VEGF-tm) is combined with the liposome-forming components

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and the CDKi-encoding transgene under conditions to facilitate formation of liposomes.

In a certain embodiment, the CDKi is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. CDKi's are as described above for the first aspect of the invention.

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In a certain embodiment of the second aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In certain embodiments, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In certain embodiments, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active fragment of human p27, and is W7 or W9.

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In certain embodiments of the second aspect of the invention, the encoded cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is internalizable. In certain embodiments, the

cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is secretable. A "secretable" protein is one that is engineered such that it will be discharged or released by the cell which produces it.

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In a third aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting angiogenesis by contacting a target endothelial cell with a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor of the invention, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the cell is inhibited, and wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof; a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof; and a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of the protein from the INK4 family and at least an active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family. Preferably the CDKi is mammalian and is internalizable. In some nonlimiting examples, the active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family in amino acids 25-93 or 12-178 of human p27 protein. In some preferred examples, the CDKi is W7 or W9. As used herein, a "target cell" is the cell which is to be contacted by the CDKi.

In one embodiment of the third aspect of the invention, the endothelial cell internalizes the internalizable cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. By "internalize" is meant that the cell takes up a protein into its cytoplasm and/or nucleus, where the internalized protein can participate in intracellular functions.

Preferably, a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor of the invention is engineered such that it includes a translocation sequence, thereby allowing it to be internalized by a cell. A protein engineered such that it can be internalized by a cell is called an "internalizable" protein. By "engineered" is meant using standard molecular biology techniques to modify a nucleic acid sequence (and the resulting encoded protein) (see general laboratory manuals Maniatis et al.,

Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (2nd ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Press, 1989; and Ausubel et al., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, NY, 1994). "Nucleic acid sequence" includes, without limitation, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), ribonucleic acid (RNA), analogs of either DNA or RNA, mRNA, and cDNA. Engineered proteins and/or nucleic acids may be modified such that amino acid residues or nucleotide bases are added or subtracted, or even replaced with other amino acid residues or nucleotide bases. As used herein, an "engineered" recombinant virus is one in which a nucleic acid sequence contained within its genomic material has been modified according to standard molecular biology techniques.

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Accordingly, an engineered cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor of the invention preferably comprises translocation sequences that facilitate the translocation of a protein across the cell membrane of a cell, thereby allowing the protein to be internalized by that cell. Several representative translocation sequences sufficient to direct protein internalization are known and include a portion of the *Drosophila* antepennepedia protein (GenBank Accession No. E01911; Asato et al. (1989) Japanese Patent No. 1989085092-A1; Derossi et al. (1996) *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:18188-18193; Derossi et al. (1994) *J. Biol. Chem.* 269:10444-10450; Perez et al. (1992) *J. Cell. Sci.* 102:717-722) the HIV transactivator (TAT) protein (Kuppuswamy et al. (1989) *Nucl. Acids Res.* 17:3551-3561; Frankel and Pabo (1989) *Cell* 55:1189-1193; Green and Lowenstein (1989) *Cell* 55:1179-1188), and mastoparan (Higashijima et al. (1990) *J. Biol. Chem.* 265:14176-141860). In certain embodiments, the engineered internalizable CDKi of the invention comprises a translocation sequence that is the sequence encoding amino acids 48-60 or amino acids 47-72 of the HIV tat protein.

In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. A "fusion protein" of the invention is a single polypeptide chain that comprises at least a active fragment of a first protein and at least a active fragment of a second protein, wherein the two fragments are joined either directly or indirectly with a peptide bond. It will be understood that the fusion protein of the invention may comprise more than two proteins (or active fragments thereof). Each fragment of a fusion protein may be from a separate CDKi, or may be from the same CDKi. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the active fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16.

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For example, one fusion protein of the invention comprises the full length murine p16 protein joined to the full length human p21 protein. Another fusion protein of the invention comprises an active fragment of the human p27 protein with the full length human p16 protein. Yet another fusion protein of the invention includes the ten N-terminal amino acids of the human p27 protein joined to the ten C-terminal amino acids of the human p27 protein. In some embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of human p16 and at least an active

fragment of human p27, and is W3, W4, W5, W6, W7, W8, W9, or W10. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9.

Fusion proteins of the invention may include a linker between the two joined active fragments. A "linker" is any chemical, synthetic, carbohydrate, lipid, polypeptide (or combination thereof) molecule positioned between and joined to two adjacent active fragments in a fusion protein. A preferred linker of the invention is a polypeptide chain consisting one or more amino acid residues joined by amino acid bonds to the two active fragments. For example, a (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker may be positioned between the two active fragments in the fusion protein.

In certain embodiments, the method further comprises delivering a transgene encoding an internalizable cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor to an auxiliary cell, wherein the transgene is expressed by the auxiliary cell to produce the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the auxiliary cell releases the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor into the blood, and wherein the bloodborne cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor contacts the target endothelial cell. An "auxiliary cell" is a cell which is not the target cell. In one embodiment, the encoded CDKI also contains a signal sequence enabling the CDKi to be secreted from the auxiliary cell.

For example, a secretable, internalizable CDKi of the invention may comprise a leader sequence from an immunoglobulin protein fused to the entire HIV tat protein fused to the amino-terminal end of a CDKi of the invention (see, e.g., Fawell et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91(2):664-668). Preferably, the internalizable CDKi of the invention comprises a translocation sequence that is

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the sequence encoding amino acids 48-60 or amino acids 47-72 of the full length HIV tat protein.

In one embodiment, the secretable, internalizable form of a CDKi of the invention has the following sequence: N terminus-(Leader peptide) bonded to (HIV tat amino acids 1-72 peptide) bonded to (CDKi protein) -C terminus. Other preferred embodiments of secretable, internalizable CDKi proteins of the invention are generated in cells introduced with transgenes encoding the constructs schematically depicted in Figs. 15A-15C. In yet additional embodiments, the secretable, internalizable form of a CDKi of the invention has a signal (leader) sequence from proinsulin, a translocation sequence from HIV tat amino acids 1-72, and where the secretable, internalizable CDKi is W9, the nucleic acid sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO:29, and the amino acid sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO:30.

In addition, the signal peptide and translocation sequences may be separated from the CDKi with a linker, such as a (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker. Where the secretable, internalizable CDKi is W9, the linker is the (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker, the translocation sequence is HIV tat amino acids 1-72, and the signal (leader) sequence is from proinsulin, the nucleic acid sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO:31, and the amino acid sequence is provided in SEQ ID NO:32.

In certain embodiments, the internalizable CDKi does not possess a secretion signal. When this CDKi is expressed from a recombinant virus that promotes lysis of a transduced cell, the internalizable CDKi is released, allowing uptake by neighboring or distant endothelial cells, whereupon it inhibits angiogenesis.

To deliver the CDKi of the invention to endothelial cells, standard administration protocols may be employed. The CDKi proteins, or nucleic acid

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sequences, liposomes or recombinant viruses including transgenes encoding a CDKi protein of the invention may be combined with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or other therapeutic reagents to generate therapeutic compositions for use *in vivo*. Accordingly, the CDKi protein, nucleic acid sequences encoding the CDKi proteins, recombinant viruses, or liposomes of the invention may be formulated for administration with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers such as water, buffered saline, polyol (e.g., glycerol, propylene glycol, liquid polyethylene glycol), or suitable mixtures thereof. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid sequences or proteins of the invention are dispersed in liquid formulations, such as micelles or liposomes, which closely resemble the lipid composition of natural cell membranes.

Formulations for parenteral administration may, for example, contain sterile water, or saline, polyalkylene glycols such as polyethylene glycol, oils of vegetable origin, or hydrogenated napthalenes. Biocompatible, biodegradable lactide polymer, lactide/glycolide copolymer, or polyoxyethylene-poloxypropylene copolymers may be used to control the release of the CDKi of the invention. Other potentially useful parenteral delivery systems include ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer particles, osmotic pumps, and implantable infusion system. By "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier"is meant a carrier that is physiologically acceptable to the administered individual and that retains the therapeutic properties of the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor or nucleic acid encoding the inhibitor with which is it administered. One exemplary pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is physiological saline. Other pharmaceutically-acceptable carriers and their formulations are well-known and generally described in, for example, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (18th Edition, ed. A. Gennaro, Mack Publishing Co., Easton, PA, 1990).

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For the delivery of proteins lacking translocation sequences such that they will not be internalized by target cells, the protein is preferably first combined with a delivery system that will facilitate the internalization of the protein by cells. In one nonlimiting example, the protein may first be packaged in a liposome, for example, that bears a surface positive charge.

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Administration of a CDKi protein or nucleic acid encoding a CDKi protein to cells in vivo may be accomplished by any suitable method or route including without limitation, parenteral intravenous, intra-arterial, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intranasal, aerosol, by suppositories, or oral administration. Therapeutics may be in the form of liquid solutions or suspensions; for oral administration, formulations may be in the form of tablets or capsules; and for intranasal formulations, in the form of powders, nasal drops, or aerosols. Preferably, the angiogenesis-inhibiting reagents and compositions of the invention are administered locally to the affected area (e.g., directly into the tumor mass), or may be administered systemically. Preferably, where the CDKi proteins themselves are injected, the proteins are purified, administered with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier (e.g., physiological saline), and are internalizable by endothelial cells. For example, compositions that comprise a CDKi protein (e.g., a secretable, internalizable form of a CDKi protein) or a nucleic acid sequence encoding a CDKi protein may be diluted in culture media and added to cells cultured in vitro. Similarly, for in vivo delivery, compositions comprising a CDKi protein or nucleic acid sequences encoding a CDKi protein may be combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, such as buffered saline, and administered (e.g., to the site of cells affected by a condition associated with angiogenesis) by injection with a syringe or catheter.

In a fourth aspect, the invention provides a purified internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. An "internalizable" protein is one that is engineered such that it will be internalized by an endothelial cell, as described above in the first aspect of the invention. By "purified" is meant a protein that has been separated from components which naturally accompany it or, in the case of a protein generated by recombinant biology techniques, components that accompany it in the engineered cell or virus. Of course, those of ordinary skill in protein chemistry will understand that water, buffers, and other small molecules may additionally be present in a purified protein preparation. Typically, a purified protein is pure when it is at least 60%, by weight, free from other accompanying proteins and organic molecules (e.g., nucleic acid). Preferably, a purified protein is at least 75%, more preferably, at least 90%, even more preferably, at least 95%, and most preferably at least 99% by weight, free from accompanying proteins and organic molecules. Preferably, a purified internalizable form of a CDKi protein of the invention is obtained by expression of a nucleic acid sequence encoding the secretable, internalizable form of the CDKi protein. Purity can be measured by any appropriate method including, without limitation, column chromatography, polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, and HPLC analysis.

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For example, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a secretable, internalizable form of a CDKi protein of the invention may be introduced into a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell *in vitro*, such that the nucleic acid sequence can be expressed in that cell. The protein is then secreted, in which case it may be purified from the conditioned culture media of the cell. Recombinant virus encoding a secretable, internalizable form of a CDKi protein may also be used to transduce eukaryotic cells. The expressed secretable, internalizable CDKi

protein may then be purified from the transduced cell by lysis of the cell. Alternatively, internalizable forms of the CDKi proteins of the invention (e.g., an internalizable W9 CDKi fusion protein) may be completely synthetic and be chemically produced on a peptide synthesizer.

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In a certain embodiment of the fourth aspect of the invention, the purified internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. "Fusion proteins" are as defined above in the first aspect of the invention. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin

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dependent kinase inhibitor.

The cells according to the third and fourth aspects of the invention containing the transgenes encoding and expressing the secretable, internalizable CDKi proteins secrete internalizable CDKi proteins, which can then be purified,

in accordance with the fourth aspect of the invention, or used in a paracrine fashion. By "paracrine" is meant action by a protein on a target cell wherein the protein was not produced in the target cell, but was produced in an auxiliary cell. It should be noted that the leader sequence (signal sequence peptide) is cleaved by the transduced cell prior to the secretion of the internalizable CDKi protein of the invention. It should also be noted that while some of the CDKi's described in the examples below comprise a 6 His and/or Hemagglutinin (HA) tag at their N-terminus, the internalizable forms of the CDKi of this aspect of the invention do not have a 6 His and/or HA tag at their N-terminus. Accordingly, to generate an internalizable form of a CDKi of this aspect of the invention, a nucleic acid sequence encoding the CDKi to which is operably linked the translocation sequence with or without the signal peptide sequence preferably does not comprise a 6 His tag or a HA tag. For example, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a W9 CDKi protein of the invention which lacks a 6 His, HA tag is provided in SEQ ID NO:23.

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According to the third and fourth aspects of the invention, a transgene encoding a secretable, internalizable CDKi of the invention may be introduced into any cell type by any means. The cell according to this aspect of the invention includes, without limitation, a smooth muscle cell or an endothelial cell.

The internalizable form of the CDKi proteins of the fourth aspect of the invention may be combined with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or other therapeutic reagents to generate therapeutic compositions for use *in vivo*. Such formulations are as described for the first aspect of the invention. In a fifth aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a condition associated with angiogenesis. In this method, a therapeutically effective amount of the

therapeutic composition comprising a purified internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is administered to a patient having or suspected of having the condition.

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By "therapeutically effective amount" is meant the total amount of each active component of a therapeutic composition that is sufficient to show a meaningful patient benefit. When administered to a subject having a condition associated with angiogenesis, a therapeutically effective amount is an amount sufficient to slow angiogenesis, more preferably, to arrest angiogenesis, and, most preferably, to completely inhibit angiogenesis.

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In a sixth aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a condition associated with angiogenesis. In this method, a therapeutically effective amount of a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is administered to a patient having or suspected of having the condition. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

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In a certain embodiment of the sixth aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the

CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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It is contemplated that any virus can be used which comprises the transgene and which can be administered to a patient. In a particular embodiment of the sixth aspect of the invention, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus, such as a vaccinia virus. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacks an essential viral protein-encoding sequence region. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus is replication-deficient. In a preferred embodiment, the adenovirus lacks a functional E1 region. In a certain embodiment, the adenovirus lacking the functional E1 region additionally lacks a functional second region, such as an E2 region, an E3 region, or an E4 region. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the functional second region is the E4 region.

In a seventh aspect, the invention provides a recombinant virus comprising a transgene encoding a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein

the recombinant virus is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus lacking an E1 and an E4 region, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, and a pox virus.

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Recombinant viruses containing transgenes encoding the CDKi of the invention, and methods for making them, are as described above in the first aspect of the invention. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

In a certain embodiment of the seventh aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

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In an eighth aspect, the invention provides a liposome comprising a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. Liposomes containing the CDKi proteins of the invention, and methods for making them, are as described above in the first aspect of the invention. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, such as an active fragment selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, such as human p16 protein or an active fragment thereof. In a certain preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a derived from a mammal (e.g., a human).

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In a certain embodiment of the eight aspect of the invention, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of a first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and at least an active fragment of a second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor. In a certain embodiment, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the CIP/KIP family. In certain embodiments, the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p27. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises an active fragment of a protein from the CIP/KIP family, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein. In a certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is a protein from the INK4 family. In a

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certain embodiment, the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is human p16. In preferred embodiments, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9. In a certain embodiment, the fusion protein comprises a linker positioned between the active fragment of the first cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor and the active fragment of the second cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor.

In a ninth aspect, the invention provides a nucleic acid composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a regulatory sequence such that the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is expressed by an endothelial cell to which is administered the composition. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid sequence further encodes a secretory sequence.

In a tenth aspect, the invention provides a therapeutic composition comprising a nucleic acid composition comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a secretable, internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a regulatory sequence such that the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is expressed by an endothelial cell to which is administered the composition and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In one embodiment, the therapeutic composition further comprises a delivery system that facilitates the internalization of the composition by the endothelial cell. In a certain embodiment, the delivery system is a recombinant virus. In preferred embodiments, the recombinant virus is an adenovirus, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus, or a pox virus.

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In an eleventh aspect, the invention provides a method for treating a patient having or suspected of having a condition associated with angiogenesis. In this method a therapeutically effective amount of a transgene encoding a secretable, internalizable form of a cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is administered to a cell of the patient that is in close proximity to endothelial cells affected by the condition. In certain embodiments, the transgene is incorporated into a recombinant virus.

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The invention now being generally described will be more readily understood by reference to the following examples which are included merely for purposes of illustration of certain aspects and embodiments of the present invention, and are not intended to limit the invention.

EXAMPLE I

Generation of p27/p16 Fusion Proteins

To create more potent anti-proliferative molecules that possess the activities of both the lNK4 (p16) and CIP/KIP (p27) families, a number of recombinant CDKi's were created that fused the parental human p16 and p27 molecules, or their derivatives. The engineered CDKi's included fusion proteins of p16 fused to 5' and 3' truncated p27 molecules. These fusion proteins were designed to increase the protein's half-life and eliminate potential phosphorylation sites involved in the negative regulation of CDKi activity. The p27-p16 fusion proteins interacted with the CDK4/cyclinD, CDK2/cyclinA, and CDK2/cyclinE complexes and inhibited cell cycle progression at multiple points.

To generate the following non-limiting, representative CDKi fusion proteins of the present invention (and nucleic acid sequences encoding these

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proteins), the published sequences of the human p16 and p27 molecules were utilized. The nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO:25) and amino acid (SEQ ID NO:26) sequence of human p27 is available as GenBank Accession No. U10906 (Polyak et al. (1994) Cell 78:56-66). The nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO:27) and amino acid (SEQ ID NO:28) sequence of human p16 is available as GenBank Accession No. L27211 (Serrano et al. (1993) Nature 366:704-707; Okamoto et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:11045-11049). To construct the representative, non-limiting CDKi fusion proteins of the invention, in general, PCR primers were used to insert a NdeI cloning site followed by sequence encoding 6xHis and an epitope tag from the influenza virus hemagglutinin protein (HA tag) at the 5' end of full length p27 or truncated p27₂₅₉₃ and p27₁₂₋₁₇₈. In each instance, the CDKi gene was followed by an amber stop codon with Sall cloning site. The NdeI-Sall fragments were amplified by Deep Vent polymerase (commercially available from New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA) and cloned into plasmid pT7-7 (commercially available from US Biological (USB), Swampscott, MA) to yield pT7-His6-HA-p27, pT7-His6-HA-p27₂₅₋₉₃ and pT7-His6-HA-p27₁₂₋₁₇₈. To generate fragments without a stop codon and a (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker, an alternate set of 3' PCR primers were used to insert sequence coding for a (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker in place of the stop codon with Sall cloning site at the 3' end. These Ndel-Sall amplified fragments were then subcloned into a NdeI and XhoI digested pKS plasmid containing full length p16, with the initiating ATG removed, generating an open reading frame in which the various p27 derivatives and full length p16 are linked by (Gly₄Ser)₃, histidine, and aspartic acid. The representative, nonlimiting CDKi proteins of this example are schematically depicted in Fig. 2A, and were constructed as follows:

To construct the nucleic acid sequence encoding the p27-p16 fusion protein (*i.e.*, N-terminal p27 and C-terminal p16) having a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region between the p27 and p16 portions (W3), the p27 coding sequence was first PCR amplified using the following primers: N-terminal primer, which carries an NdeI site and 6 histidine codons that are inserted between the ATG and the second amino acid of p27 (SEQ ID NO:1): 5'-GCGGCCGGTCATATGCACCACCATCACCATCACTCAAACGTGCGAGTG TCT-3'; and C-terminal primer, which carries the (Gly₄Ser)₃ repeat and EcoRI, SalI, and HindIII restriction sites and eliminates the stop codon of p27 (SEQ ID NO:2):

The p27 PCR product was digested with Ndel and HindIII and inserted into pT7-7 linearized with NdeI and HindIII. The resulted construct was digested with EcoRI and SalI and a full length p16 PCR product was inserted as an EcoRI-XhoI fragment. The position of the EcoRI site allows the in-frame insertion of p16. The rest of the hinge region between the p27 and p16 coding sequences is derived from the 5' end of the p16 cDNA. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W3 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

A nucleic acid sequence encoding a second p27-p16 fusion protein, W4, was generated, where the p27 and p16 portions were not separated by a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region. The W4-encoding nucleic acid sequence construct includes a 5' EcoRI site, along with the coding sequence for a N-terminal HA tag, and a 3' NotI site. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W4 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

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Two p16-p27 fusion proteins (i.e., N-terminal p16 and C-terminal p27), W5 (having a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region located between the p16 and p27 portions) and W6 (not having a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region) were similarly generated. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W5 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W6 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:9 and SEQ ID NO:10.

In addition, a series of a series of truncated versions of p27 designed to

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increase the protein half-life were fused to full-length p16 at the N-terminus. In one p27 truncation, p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, the first 12 N-terminal and the last 20 C-terminal amino acids were removed from full length p27 to remove a CDK consensus phosphorylation site (TPKK) at amino acids 187-190, two other potential phosphorylation sites for proline directed kinases, at amino acids 178-181 (SPN), and a weak CDK phosphorylation site (SPSL) at amino acids 10-13 (Sheaff et al. (1997) *Genes & Dev.* 11:1464-1478; Morisaki et al. (1997) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 240:386-390). The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of this truncated p27 protein (12aa-178aa) are shown in SEQ ID NO:11 and SEQ ID NO:12, respectively, which provide a polypeptide of the formula EcoRI-ATG-HA epitope-p27 (12-178aa)-Stop-NotI.

W7 comprises amino acids 12-178 of p27 fused to full length p16, where the p27 and p16 portions are separated by a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W7 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:13 and SEQ ID NO:14. W8 comprises amino acids 12-178 of p27 fused to full length p16, where the p27 and p16 portions are not separated by a (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W8 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16.

In a second truncation of p27, p27₂₅₋₉₃, only the CDK inhibitory domain of p27 (amino acids 25-93) was retained. This domain contacts both the CDK and cyclin binding subunits and is sufficient for kinase inhibition, while lacking the nuclear localization signal at amino acids 152-166 and the QT domain at amino acids 144-194 (Russo et al. (1998) *Nature* 395:237-243). Thus, the p27₂₅₋₉₃ CDKi was created to eliminate amino acid residues that may play a role in targeting the parental p27 molecule to the ubiquitin- proteosome degradation pathway or may play a role in p27 phosphorylation. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of this truncated p27 protein (25aa-93aa) are shown in SEQ ID NO:17 and SEQ ID NO:18, respectively, which provide a polypeptide of the formula EcoRI-ATG-HA epitope-p27 (25-93aa)-Stop-NotI.

The p27₂₅₋₉₃ fragment were fused to the N-terminus of p16 with (W10) or without (W9) the (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge (Fig. 6). The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W9 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:19 and SEQ ID NO:20. The nucleic acid and amino acid sequence of W10 are provided, respectively, in SEQ ID NO:21 and SEQ ID NO:22.

W3, W8, and W10 were further subcloned into a modified pGEX4T-1 plasmid (Pharmacia Biotech, Uppsala, Sweden) (where a NdeI cloning site was inserted between the BamHI and EcoRI sites) as NdeI-NotI fragments to generate glutathione S-transferase (GST) tagged fusion proteins. A similar strategy was used to generate fusion proteins without the (Gly₄Ser)₃ linker (*i.e.*, W4 (p27-p16), W7 (p27₁₂₋₁₇₈-p16), and W9 (p27₂₅₋₉₃-p16)). The nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of the p27₂₅₋₉₃-p16 fusion CDKi, W9, without the HA tag and six histidine residues are provided in SEQ ID NO:23 and SEQ ID NO:24, respectively.

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p27, p27₂₅₋₉₃, and p27₁₂₋₁₇₈ proteins were expressed in *E. coli* BL21 strain using the pT7 plasmids described above. For protein expression, cells were grown in LB + 50mg/ml ampicillin at 37°C to OD₆₀₀=0.8 and protein expression was induced by IPTG (final; conc.: 20 mM) for 4 hours as 37°C. Cells were collected and the pellet was frozen at -80°C. The preparation of the cell lysate and binding to a Ni²⁺ charged sepharose resin (Invitrogen Corp, San Diego, CA; Catalog No. R801) was done according to the manufacturer's instruction (Invitrogen; see also Hochuli et al. (1987) *J. Chromatography* 411:177-184; Janknecht et al. (1991) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:8972-8976). The bound proteins were eluted with 50 mM, 200 mM, 350 mM, and 500 mM imidazol and the fractions were analyzed on SDS/PAGE. The 200 mM, 350 mM, and 500 mM imidazol fractions were collected, dialyzed against 1xPBS (1 mM KH₂PO₄, 10 mM Na₂HPO₄, 137 mM NaCl, 2.7 mM KCl, pH 7.4) + 10% glycerol and stored at-80°C in aliquots. Approximately 25% of the prep was the protein.

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chromatography using a Superdex 75 FPLC column equilibrated with 10% glycerol in PBS. Expression and purification of the GST-tagged W3, W4, W7, W8, W9, and W10 fusion proteins was essentially as described (Gyuris et al. (1993) *Cell* 75:791-803). The purified GST-fusion proteins were then buffer exchanged by dialysis into 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM CaCl₂. The GST domain was removed from the proteins by enzymatic cleavage with 1 unit (USB units) of thrombin/mg of protein/hour (thrombin commercially available from USB). Following cleavage, the thrombin was inactivated with 2 fold molar excess of PPACK (USB). The cleaved GST moiety was then removed by passing the protein solution over a column of glutathione-Sepharose. Protein

p27₂₅₋₉₃ and p27₁₂₋₁₇₈ were further purified by gel filtration column

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concentration was determined using a protein assay (BioRad, Cambridge, MA)

with bovine serum albumin (BSA) as a standard. In order to more accurately determine the concentration and purity of the specific proteins in each of the preparations, the protein samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and stained with Coomasie blue. The stained gels were analyzed using the Gel Doc 1000 image analysis system and Molecular Analyst software (BioRad).

The p27 and p16 CDKi's appear to fold correctly in all of the fusion protein CDKi's, as the biochemical data indicates that the p27 moieties were functional and intra-cellular staining with anti-p16 antibodies indicate that at least at a gross level, the p16 molecules were folded correctly.

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EXAMPLE II

in vitro Kinase-Inhibiting Activities of the p27/p16 Fusion Proteins

The natural substrates for p27 and p16 CDKi's are cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) complexes that are formed via the association of different catalytic CDK and regulatory cyclin subunits. The CDK4/cyclin D and CDK6/cyclin D complexes regulate progression through G₁ phase, the CDK2/cyclin E kinase regulates the G₁ /S transition, the CDK2/cyclin A complex drives the cells through S-phase, and the entry and exit from mitosis is controlled by the CDC2/cyclin B complex (Sherr, C.J. (1996) *Science* 274:1672-1677). CDKi's regulate the activity of the CDK complexes through a combination of phosphorylation events and physical association (Morgan, M. (1995) *Nature* 374:131-134). The redistribution of CDKi's between the different CDK/cyclin complexes during the cell cycle coordinates the timing of activation and deactivation of their kinase activity (Sherr and Roberts (1995) *Genes and Dev.* 9:1149-1163).

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To determine the ability of the CDKi proteins of the invention, their abilities to inhibit the *in vitro* kinase activity of CDK4/cyclin D1, CDK2/cyclin E, and CDC2/cyclin B complexes was determined. The purity of the various p27-p16 fusion proteins, p27, and p16 preparations were normalized using p16 and p27 specific antibodies.

were obtained from Sf9 insect cells transfected with baculoviruses expressing

recombinant cyclins and CDK's. Briefly, the assay employed Sf9 cell extracts

expression constructs. Typically, 44 mg of Sf9 extract in 50 ml of 50 mM Tris-

was between 25 nM to 1 mM). Partial purification of CDK4/cyclin D1 was

achieved by a 20-40% ammonium sulfate preparation of the cell lysate and was

that were made from cells that were coinfected with the proper CDK and cyclin

HCl pH 7.6, 10 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 25 mM ATP, 10 mCi ³²P-γ-ATP was used in the absence or the presence of the particular inhibitor (inhibitor concentration

Active CDK4/cyclin D1, CDK2/cyclin E, and CDC2/cyclin B complexes

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used in the assays. CDK2/cyclin E was purified to greater than 90% and pretreated with CDK-activating kinase (CAK) (Morgan, M., *supra*) for full activation. CDC2/cyclin B was expressed as a GST fusion protein (CDC2/GST-cyclin B) and purified on glutathione-Sepharose column, cleaved by thrombin, and followed by another glutathione-Sepharose separation for the removal of the cleaved GST. GST-fused Rb (glutathione S-transferase fusion with amino acids 379-928 from the C terminus of pRB; GST-Rb) was used as a substrate for the CDK4/cyclin D1 and CDK2/cyclin E assays; histone H1 was the substrate for CDC2/cyclin B. The reaction was carried out at 30°C for 30 minutes using 2 mg of substrate. These assays were carried out in 96 well plates (Nunc,

Naperville, IL) and monitored by y-32P-ATP incorporation.

The reactions were initiated by addition of the insect cell-produced CDK (e.g., CDC2/cyclin B) and the E. coli-produced CDKi (e.g., p27 and W9). The concentrations of GST-Rb and histone H1 were 4.4 mM and 19 mM, respectively, and the concentration of ATP was 50-60 mM. The reaction mixtures contained 50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 10 mM MgCl₂, and 1 mM DTT in a total volume of 50 or 100 µl. After incubation at 30°C for 10-20 minutes, the reaction was terminated by the addition of a stop solution containing EDTA. The phosphorylated substrates were captured either by GST-Sepharose or TCA precipitation and then monitored for radioactivity (Microplate Scintillation Counter, Packard, Meriden, CT).

The concentration of CDKi protein at which 50% of the kinase activity was blocked (IC $_{50}$) was calculated for various cyclin/CDK pairs. The results are indicated in Table I and in Fig. 6, the latter showing three columns labeled CDK4/cyclin D1 (nM), CDK2/cyclin E (nM), and CDC2/cyclin B (nM). Moreover, the inhibition constant, K_i for the inhibition of CDK4/cyclin D1 by p27/p16 fusion protein was determined to be 23 nM, compared to a K_i of 75 nM for p16 inhibition of the same CDK4 complex.

Table I

Inhibition of Cyclin Dependent Kinase Complexes by p27-p16 Fusion Protein

inhibitor	CDK4/ cyclin D1	CDK2/ cyclin E	CDK2/ cyclin A	cdc2/ cyclin B
p27-p16	25 nM	30 nM	25 nM	15 nM
p27	63 nM	52 nM	65 nM	20 nM
p16	250 nM	>500 nM	>500 nM	>500 nM

nM=nanomolar

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As shown in Table I and Fig. 6, p16 was a potent inhibitor of the CDK4/cyclin D1 kinase. In contrast, p27 was a powerful inhibitor of all three kinase complexes. The various p27 modifications did not positively impact the monomeric or fusion protein CDKi's inhibitory activity *in vitro* (see Fig. 6). In general, the order of the p16 and p27 CDK in the fusion CDKi does not appear to impact the activity of the fusion CDKi. Moreover, the (Gly₄Ser)₃ hinge region is not necessary to retain p27 function in the fusion CDKi.

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Thus, in vitro kinase inhibition experiments indicated that the potency of the purified p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, p27₂₅₋₉₃ or the fusion p27/p16 proteins (W3, W4, W7, W8, W9, and W10) were not appreciably different from that of full-length p27 or an equimolar mixture of p16 and p27. The activity of the CDK4/cyclin D1 complex was inhibited by both p16 and p27.

EXAMPLE III

Construction of Recombinant Adenoviruses
Expressing p16, p27, and the p27/p16 Fusion Proteins

Based on the *in vitro* kinase data, a representative of each of the CDKi species was selected for further analysis. The genes encoding p16, p27 and its derivatives, W3, W7, or W9 CDKi were introduced into the E1 region of a replication deficient, E1 and E3 deleted (Δ E1/ Δ E3) recombinant adenovirus (Fig. 7). The adenovirus vector system used for the construction of replication deficient, E1 region- and E3 region-deleted, E4 region-containing adenovirus 5 (Ad5) recombinants was purchased from Microbix Biosystems Inc. (Toronto,

Ontario, Canada). The six-his residue, HA-tagged CDKI's were expressed under the control of the CMV promoter/enhancer and the SV40 polyA signal (Fig. 7).

The Δ E1/ Δ E3 adenovirus encoding p27 (AV-p27) was constructed by in vivo recombination in 293 cells following the manufacturer's instructions (Microbix). 293 cells, a human embryonic kidney cell line which contains the E1 region of the adenovirus and, therefore, provides the E1 region gene products lacking in the E1-deleted recombinant adenoviruses, are commercially available from the American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA (ATCC No. CRL 1573) (Graham et al. (1977) J. Gen. Virol. 36:59-72). AV-p27 DNA was isolated from the amplified virus and digested with ClaI. This digest removed the p27 expression cassette (i.e., nucleic acid sequence encoding p27 operably linked to regulatory sequences) and the left inverted terminal repeat (ITR) and packaging signals of Ad5 (see Fig. 7). HA-tagged p16, p27₂₅₋₉₃, p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, W3, W7, and W9 molecules were cloned into a plasmid, pKS-ITR-CMV, which contains the expression cassette as well as the left ITR and packaging signals with flanking EcoRV and Clal restriction sites. The order of the functional elements is the following from 5' to 3': EcoRV-left ITR-packaging signal-CMV enhancer/promoter-CDKi insert-SV40 polyA-ClaI. The EcoRV-ClaI fragments containing the CDKi inserts were ligated to the deleted, large Ad5 DNA in vitro and the ligated DNA was transfected into 293 cells.

Infectious, recombinant virus particles were rescued from 293 cells. The unligated, large Ad5 fragment was unable to generate infectious viruses alone because of the lack of the left ITR and packaging signal that are essential for virus replication. Infectious recombinants formed only when the small EcoRV-ClaI fragment containing the left ITR, packaging signal, the expression

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cassette and the CDKi insert was ligated to the ClaI digested end of the Ad5 DNA re-creating an infectious Ad5 recombinant virus DNA.

EXAMPLE IV

Stability of p16, p27, and the p27/p16 Fusion Proteins
Delivered by an Adenovirus Containing the Entire E4 region

To determine the half-life of the various CDKi in CASMC's, pulse-chase experiments were performed using growth arrested and proliferating CASMC's transduced with the adenoviruses containing the entire E4 region and expressing the various CDKi (AV-CDKi's).

Human coronary artery smooth muscle cells (CASMCs) were obtained

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from Clonetics (Walkersville, MD). Low passage CASMC (less than passage 10) were plated at 3500 cells/cm² in complete SMC media (Clonetics, plus 5% FBS and growth factors) and allowed to recover overnight. For proliferating cells, cultures were maintained throughout in complete SMC. For quiescent cells, cultures were serum starved for 48 hours in low serum media (SMC media with

0.05% FBS and 1:100 growth factors).

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Growth arrested (G₀) and proliferating (A_s) CASMC were transduced at an MOI of 50 with the various recombinant adenoviruses containing the E4 region and expressing CDKi's. Twenty-four hours later, the cells were radiolabeled ("pulsed") for 2 hours in media containing ³⁵S-methionine. The ³⁵S-methionine containing media was then removed and replaced with media containing an excess of non-radiolabeled amino acids, and the cells "chased" for 0, 1, 3, 9, 18 hours and 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 days. Cell pellets were lysed in 50 mM Tris-Cl pH 7.5, 250 mM NaCl, 0.5% NP-40, 50 mM NaF, 5mM EDTA, 1mM PMSF, 1 mM

Sodium Vanadate, and protease inhibitors. Protein concentrations were determined using a protein assay (Biorad) with bovine serum albumin (BSA) as a standard. Equivalent amounts of total protein from the cells were then immunoprecipitated using antibodies bound to protein A-sepharose. The antibodies used were p27 (Kip1, commercially available from Transduction Laboratories, Lexington, KY), and p16-C20 (commercially available from Santa Cruz Biotech., Santa Cruz, CA). The immunoprecipitates were separated by SDS-PAGE, and the gels vacuum dried and exposed to film. Estimated half life was determined from the radiolabeled proteins on the autoradiographs, which were analyzed using the Gel Doc 1000 image analysis system and Molecular Analysts software (Biorad).

The observed molecular weights of the expressed, HA epitope tagged proteins corresponded to the expected sizes: p27, approximately 30 kD; p27₁₂. 178, approximately 28 kD; p27₂₅₋₉₃, approximately 10 kD; p16, approximately 19 kD; W3, approximately 48 kD; W7, approximately 46 kD; and W9, approximately 30 kD. Interestingly, in AV-p27₂₅₋₉₃ infected cells, a protein band with the apparent molecular weight of approximately 24 kD was observed. The band was recognized by both p27 and HA epitope specific antibodies (data not shown) suggesting that it might be a stable dimer of two p27₂₅₋₉₃ molecules.

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The kinetics of signal decay from the immunoprecipitated CDKi's was assessed by autoradiography at specific time-points (summarized in Fig. 6, two far right columns labeled "Half-Life (hrs)"). The half-life of the CDKi's was estimated as the time-point at which half the original CDKi protein signal remained. The half-lives of adenovirus expressed p27 and p16 were similar, approximately 3 hours in quiescent cells. The half-lives of the truncated p27 derivatives were reduced compared to the full-length p27 molecule. The half-

life of p27₁₂₋₁₇₈ was approximately 2 hours in quiescent cells and approximately one hour in proliferating cells. The p27₂₅₋₉₃ was extremely unstable with a half-life of less than one hour in CASMC's. The half-lives of the fusion protein CDKi, W3 and W9, were similar to the p27 molecule: approximately two hours in quiescent cells (G_0 cells) and approximately 6.5 and 4.5 hours, respectively, in proliferating cells. While the half-life of the W7 fusion protein was similar to the other CDKi in growth arrested SMC, it demonstrated a strikingly longer half live in proliferating cells (approximately 20 hours). This represented an increase of at least 6-times and 20-times in stability over the contributing p16 and p27₁₂₋₁₇₈ molecules, respectively.

In quiescent CASMC (G_0 cells), the p16, p27, W3, W7, and W9 proteins all had half-lives of 2 to 3 hours (see Fig. 6). In proliferating cells (A_s), the W7 protein demonstrated a half-life of 20 hours.

EXAMPLE V

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Efficacy of the Recombinant Adenoviruses Encoding CDKi in Transducing Cells of the Vasculature

To evaluate transduction efficiency of cells of the vasculature by $\Delta E1$ deleted adenovirus, cultures of quiescent primary coronary artery smooth muscle cells (CASMC), aortic smooth muscle cells (AoSMC), coronary artery endothelial cells (CAEC), and control HeLa cells were incubated with increasing does of a $\Delta E1$ adenovirus encoding the β -gal transgene. Human coronary artery smooth muscle cells (CASMC) and aortic smooth muscle cells (AoSMC) were obtained from Clonetics (Walkersville, MD) and maintained in SMC media (Clonetics) supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Human coronary

artery endothelial cells (CAEC) were obtained from Clonetics (Walkersville, MD) and maintained in EBM media supplemented with 5% bovine serum and growth factor supplements recommended by Clonetics. HeLa cells were maintained in DMEM containing 10% FBS.

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Quiescent CASMC, AoSMC, CAEC or HeLa cells were seeded at confluency in the appropriate media containing 5% FBS and the cells were infected 24 hours later with Δ E1-deleted AV-CMV-Lac-Z at MOI of 10, 30 and 100. The next day, virus was removed and replaced with fresh media. The cells were harvested 4 days later, and the β -gal positive cells were detected using fluorescein di-b-D-galactopyranoside (FDG) substrate (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) and quantified by FACS analysis.

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Non-proliferating human CASMC, AoSMC and CAEC were readily transduced with transduction efficiencies approaching 100% at an MOI of 10 as shown in Figs. 8A and 8B. Similar results were obtained with proliferating CASMC, AoSMC, and CAEC.

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EXAMPLE VI

Inhibition of Smooth Muscle Cell Growth by CDK Inhibitors

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For the growth inhibition studies with growth arrested (i.e., synchronously growing) cells, CASMC's were seeded at 1.3 or 3 x 10⁴ cells/well in 24 well plates in the appropriate media supplemented with 5% FBS. Twenty-four hours later, the media was changed to low serum conditions (media with 0.05% FBS) to growth arrest the cells. After 48 hours, cells were infected in low serum conditions with adenoviruses encoding the CDK inhibitor (AV-CKI) transgene or transgene encoding no protein (AV-CMV, which contains only the

CMV promoter) at MOI's of 1, 10, 50, 100 and 250 in duplicate wells. After 24 hours, virus was removed and fresh media containing 10% FBS was added back. The cells were harvested three days later and counted to determine cell recovery, or evaluated for DNA content. Apoptosis was assessed by TdT assay (Phoenix Flow Systems, San Diego, CA) and annexin binding assay (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN).

Uninfected synchronized CASMC underwent approximately a 6-fold expansion in a three day period (Fig. 9). AV-W9, encoding the p27₂₅₋₉₃-p16 fusion protein, was the most potent inhibitor of vascular smooth muscle cells, and demonstrated complete CASMC growth arrest at an MOI of 10, which coincided with the MOI sufficient to achieve complete adenovirus transduction of a population of CASMC (Fig. 9). AV-W7, which encodes the p27₁₂₋₁₇₈-p16 fusion protein, demonstrated complete inhibition of synchronized CASMC at a 5 to 10 fold higher MOI. The extent of inhibition with AV-p27, AV-p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, and AV-p27₂₅₋₉₃ was similar to AV-W3.

At an MOI of 50, transduction with AV-p16 resulted in a complete blockade of CASMC proliferation (Fig. 9). There was, however, some variability in relative activities of p16 and p27 from CASMC donor to donor. This inhibition profile may indicate the existence of a threshold mechanism of p16 inhibition that is operative *in vivo*. In all experiments involving CASMC, AV-W9 was the most active anti-proliferative agent. In this experiment, AV-p16 showed an inhibitory effect at MOI of 50 (Fig. 9). AV-W7, which encodes the p27₁₂₋₁₇₈-p16 fusion protein, demonstrated complete inhibition at 100 MOI. AV-W9 had the strongest effect in blocking cell growth following infection in quiescent CASMC. The virus particle to plaque forming units for AV-p16, AV-p27, AV-W7 and AV-W9 were similar (305 vp/pfu, 267 vp/pfu, 141 vp/pfu and 197

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vp/pfu respectively). The primacy of AV-W9 was observed in three independent experiments in which CASMC from three different donors were tested (data from one experiment is shown in Fig. 9). Some variation was observed from donor to donor in the relative strength of inhibition by AV-p16 or AV-p27 alone. In all donors, however, AV-W9, AV-W7, and AV-W3 had inhibitory effects. Importantly, the effect of AV-W9 was clearly cytostatic and not cytocidal since CDKi induction of SMC apoptosis was not observed as assayed by annexin and propidium iodide staining and analyzed by FACS.

EXAMPLE VII

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AV-W9 Transduction Induces a Blockage of Smooth Muscle Cells in G1 Phase and a Loss of Cells in S Phase

The point in the cell cycle in which the AV-CDKi's transduced CASMC were growth arrested was determined by quantification of the cellular DNA content by FACS analysis. CASMC were transduced with AV-CDKi. Three days after restimulation, cells were washed once with PBS and fixed in 70% EtOH for at least 4 hours. Cells were then washed once with PBS and treated with 0.1% triton X-100, 200 μg/ml RNase A and 50 μg/ml propidium iodide in PBS at 37°C for 15 minutes. Cells were analyzed on FACscan using Cell Quest software (Becton Dickinson, Santa Clara, CA). Cell cycle analyses were performed using ModFit LT software (Verity, Topsham, ME). As controls for cell cycle analysis, cells were treated with n-butyrate or aphidicolin, which arrest cells in early G₁ (Darzynkiewicz et al. (1981) *Exp. Cell. Res.* 136(2):279-293) or early S phase (Sorscher and Cordeiro-Stone (1991) *Biochemistry* 30(4):1086-1090), respectively. 5 mM n-butyrate or 5 mg/ml aphidicolin was added to SMC at the time of

restimulation, and cells were collected 36 hours later for analysis of DNA content.

Following incubation in low serum conditions, greater than 98% of SMC were synchronized in the G_0/G_1 phase (Fig. 10A, top panel, *Serum Low*). This block was similar to cells treated with n-butyrate, which blocks cell cycle progression in the early G_1 phase and entry into S phase of the cell cycle (Kruh, J. (1982) *Mol Cell* Biochem 42:65-82) (Fig. 10A, top panel, *Early G*₁ *Block*). Upon stimulation of the synchronized CASMC with complete media, the normal profile of cells in G_0/G_1 phase, S phase and G_2/M phase was observed; 71%, 18% and 11%, respectively (Fig. 10A, top panel, *Mock Control*).

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As predicted from the experiments shown in Fig. 9, transduction with AV-W9 had a profound effect on the cell cycle of CASMC. CASMC transduced with the AV-W9 at MOI of 10 showed complete block of entry into the G_2/M phase; >1% for AV-W9 as compared to 11% in Mock (Fig. 10A; W9, compared gray FACS to mock control solid line overlay). At lower MOI, transduction with AV-W9 initially induced an increase in the population of cells in S phase (47%) (Fig. 10B, middle panel), similar to that observed with the aphidicolin treatment which blocks cells in early S phase (Fig. 10A, top panel, Early S Block). At higher MOI of 50 and 100, however, the percentage of cells in S phase decreased and the fraction of CASMC arrested in G_0/G_1 phase increased to over 80% (Fig. 10B, lower panel). A similar pattern of growth arrest was observed with the AV-W7 transduced cells but at five-fold higher MOI. Transduction with "empty" adenovirus, which demonstrated only modest inhibition of CASMC proliferation (Fig. 10A, Null), similarly had little effect on reducing the population of cells in G₂/M even at MOI of greater than 100 (Figs. 10A and 10B, Null). The AV-p27, AV-p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, AV-p27₂₅₋₉₃, and AV-W3 induced a depletion

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of the G_2/M population and a corresponding increase in the percentage of cells in S phase, although at MOI's 10 to 100 fold higher than necessary for AV-W9.

Thus, as might be expected from the anti-proliferative activity date, the W9 and W7 CDKi's were readily distinguished in analysis of their impact on CASMC cell cycle progression. Transduction of CASMC with any of the AV-p27-p16 fusion CDKi's as well as AV-p27 and AV-p27 derivatives lead to blockade of cells in S phase and loss of the cells in G_2/M phase. Transduction with AV-W9, however, led to blockade of cells in G_1 phase and loss of the cells in S phase. At higher MOI's AV-W7 produced a similar effect. This raises the possibility that at lower concentrations W9 and W7 primarily block CDK's whose activity is required for S-phase progression (CDK2/cyclin E or CDK2/cyclin A) and at higher concentrations, block the activity of CDK's whose activity is required in G_1 and at G_1/S (Cdk4,6/cyclin D and Cdk2/cyclin E).

EXAMPLE VIII

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Inhibition of Endothelial Cell Growth by CDK Inhibitors

For the growth inhibition studies with growth arrested (*i.e.*, synchronized) cells, CAEC's were seeded at 1.3 or 3 x 10⁴ cells/well in 24 well plates in the appropriate media supplemented with 5% FBS. Twenty-four hours later, the media was changed to low serum conditions (media with 0.05% FBS) to growth arrest the cells. After 48 hours, cells were infected in low serum conditions with adenoviruses encoding the CDK inhibitor (AV-CKI) transgene or transgene encoding no protein (AV-CMV; "AV-Null") at MOI's of 1, 10, 50, 100 and 250 in duplicate wells. After 24 hours, virus was removed and fresh media containing 10% FBS was added back. The cells were harvested 3 days later and counted to determine cell recovery, or evaluated for DNA content.

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For growth inhibition studies with proliferating (i.e., asynchronous) cells, CAEC were plated at 5 x 10⁴ per well in six-well plates. After 24 hours, cells were infected with 10 MOI AV-CDKi or AV-CMV. Cells were harvested two days later and counted to determine cell growth. Apoptosis was assessed by TdT assay (Phoenix Flow Systems, San Diego, CA) and annexin binding assay (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN).

AV-W9 was observed to be the most potent inhibitor of endothelial cell proliferation using primary CAEC that had been growth arrested following serum deprivation (Fig. 11A). In these experiments however, AV-W9 not only inhibited cell proliferation, but also resulted in cell loss. The empty adenoviral vector (Null) induced less significant cell losses. When the experiment was repeated with proliferating endothelial cells that had not been growth arrested, W9 inhibited CAEC proliferation, while the AV-p16 and AV-CMV viruses had little effect (Fig. 11B). As observed with the SMC, there was not evidence of apoptosis following infection in either synchronized or proliferating EC as determined by Tunnel staining of DNA fragments or by annexin binding. Similar results were obtained with human aortic endothelial cells.

EXAMPLE IX

Adenovirus-Delivered CDKi Have Angiogenesis-Inhibiting
Activity as Measured by the Aortic Ring Sprouting Assay

Because AV-CDKi of the invention inhibited the growth of not only vascular smooth muscle cells, but also vascular endothelial cells, two of the AV-CDKi, AV-W9 and AV-p16, were tested for an angiogenesis-inhibiting activity. One standard method for measuring angiogenesis activity is the aortic ring sprouting assay (Villaschi and Nicosia (1993) *Am. J. Pathol.* 143(1):181-90). In this

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assay, a ring of tissue from the aorta of a rat is cultured for seven days in endothelial cell growth media on a substrate, such as matrigel, which promotes angiogenesis activity. Under these conditions, the ring of tissue will sprout visible microvessels. Because a reagent having angiogenesis-inhibiting activity will prevent ring sprouting, this assay was used to detect any angiogenesis-inhibiting activity in the AV-CDKi of the invention.

One day before the experiment, 2 ml pipets, 24 well plates, and tubes were placed in refrigerator at 4°C. MATRIGEL (Cat# 40234B; Becton-Dickinson, San Jose, CA), which is stored at -20°C, was thawed at 4°C overnight on ice and kept on ice before use.

On the day of the experiment, a cooled 2 ml pipet was used to mix the MATRIGEL basement membrane matrix to homogeneity. Keeping the culture plates on ice, 300 µl of MATRIGEL was added to gel in each well of a 24 well plate. The MATRIGEL-containing plate was then incubated at 37°C for 30 min. Meanwhile, aortas were isolated from 4-6 week old rats and placed in Hank's solution (Cat# 14025-092, Gibco-BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) to clean off the outer fat with tweezers. The outer fat-free aortas were next rinsed several times to remove blood and debris. Finally, the aortas were sliced into very thin rings using a scalpel on a dry dish.

Each aortic ring was then either transduced with AV-p16, AV-W9, or AV-Null (which has no insert, but has the CMV promoter) using 5×10^{10} viral particles, 2.5×10^{10} viral particles, or 4×10^9 viral particles. The aortic ring was transduced with in 50 µl PBS for 10 to 60 minutes at 37° C.

Following transduction, the transduced aortic rings were placed onto gelled MATRIGEL in the wells of the 24 well plate (which gelled at incubation for 30 minutes at 37°C). 200 µl MATRIGEL was then added to seal the ring in

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place when the plate was cooling on ice. One ml of serum-free endothelial cell growth media (Culture Medium--EGM-2 (or EGM) Bullet Kit; Cat# CC-3162, Clonetics, Walkersville, MD) was added to each well.

One ml of serum-free endothelial cell growth media was added to each well. The ring-containing plates were incubated at 37°C for seven days.

The incubated rings were next fixed with 1% glutaradehyde in PBS at room temperature for 20 min and stained with Diff Quick staining Solution II (Cat# B4132-12; VWR, Chester, PA) for 10 min. at room temperature. The ring sprouting was recorded with a digital camera.

As can be seen in Fig. 12, aortic rings transduced with 5×10^{10} viral particles of either AV-p16 or AV-W9 showed no sprouting of microvessels as compared to the null-infected ring (Fig. 12, left 3 panels). Transduction with 2.5 $\times 10^{10}$ viral particles of AV-W9 similarly inhibited ring sprouting of microvessels; however, transduction with 2.5 $\times 10^{10}$ viral particles of AV-p16 did not inhibit ring sprouting (Fig. 12, middle 3 panels). These results demonstrate that both AV-p16 and AV-W9 have angiogenesis-inhibiting activities; however, AV-W9 is more potent.

EXAMPLE X

Adenovirus Delivered CDKi Have Angiogenesis-Inhibiting
Activity as Measured by the Matrigel Tube Assay

AV-W9 was next tested for angiogenesis-inhibiting activity using the matrigel tube assay. The matrigel tube assay is a standard method for measuring angiogenesis activity. (see Nicosia and Ottinetti (1990) *In Vitro Cell Devel. Bio.* 26:119). In this assay, cells are plated onto matrigel. Given the multiple factors and matrixes provided by matrigel, if the cells are angiogenesis

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capable, they will form tube-like structures. However, if the cells are inhibited to undergo angiogenesis, no tube-like structures will result.

One day before the experiment, 1-2 boxes of P1000 tips, 24 well plates, and tubes were placed in refrigerator at 4°C. MATRIGEL, which is stored at -20° C, was thawed at 4°C overnight on ice and kept on ice before use. Human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC, commercially available Clonetics, Walkersville, MD) were transduced with AV-W9 twenty-four hours before the experiment. The HUVEC used were at passage 6 or less. The ratio of virus particle to cells was 5×10^4 p/c or 1×10^4 p/c. For positive control, HUVEC cells were incubated in Matrigel supplemented with 50 ng/ml Fibroblast Growth Factor-basic (bFGF; Cat#F0291; Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO).

On the day of the experiment, the MATRIGEL basement membrane matrix was mixed to homogeneity by swirling the bottle. Keeping the culture plates on ice, 300 µl of MATRIGEL was added to gel in each well of a 24 well plate. The MATRIGEL-containing plate was then incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes, at which point they were ready for use.

Meanwhile, the transduced and control HUVEC cells were prepared. The cells were first rinsed with HBSS (HEPES buffered saline solution). Next, a trypsin/EDTA solution (10 µg/ml trypsin plus 0.25 mg/ml EDTA) was added into the flask of cells, and incubated at room temperature for approximately 5 min with gentle rocking. The cells were checked under microscope to determine when they were dislodged from the flask. Once all the cells were dislodged, the reaction was stopped with the addition of TNS (Trypsin Neutralizing Solution; Clonetics, Walkersville, MD). Note that all of the reagents and medium used were brought to room temperature prior to use.

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The dislodged cells were next spun down at 1000 rpm on a benchtop centrifuge. The pelleted cells were resuspended in 5 to 10 ml medium and counted. The HUVEC were resuspended to a final concentration of 4 x 10⁴ cells/ml in endothelial cell growth media (Culture Medium–EGM-2 (or EGM) Bullet Kit; Cat# CC-3162, Clonetics, Walkersville, MD). One ml of cell suspension was aliquoted into each MATRIGEL-coated plate.

The plated cells were incubated at 37°C overnight, and the plates then checked under a microscope. Next, the cells were stained with Dip Quick Fix and Solution II (Cat# J322, Jorgenson Laboratories, Inc., Loveland, CO). The stained cells, and any resulting tubes, were quantitated with NIH image or Optomax.

As shown in Fig. 13, HUVEC transduced with AV-W9 failed to form tubes when cultured on matrigel (right panel). In contrast, HUVEC transduced with the control adenovirus, AV-CMV, were stimulated to form tubes (Fig. 13, middle panel). The bFGF-treated HUVEC, of course, formed an abundance of tubes when cultured on matrigel (Fig. 13, right panel). These results demonstrate that transduction with AV-W9 inhibited angiogenesis.

EXAMPLE XI

An Adenovirus Lacking Both the E1 and the E4 Regions And Expressing the W9 Fusion Protein has Angiogenesis-Inhibiting Activity

A replication-defective recombinant adenovirus lacking both the E1 and the E4 regions has recently been described (see Wang et al., U.S. patent application serial no. 08/552, 829, filed November 3, 1995, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference). This adenovirus results in reduced pathologic effects and prolonged expression of the transgene. Moreover, the

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 $\Delta E1/\Delta E4$ adenovirus can accommodate larger transgene(s) than the singly deleted (i.e., $\Delta E1$) adenovirus.

A Δ E1/ Δ E4 adenovirus encoding W9 is generated using the methods and cells generally described in Wang et al., U.S. patent application serial no. 08/552, 829, filed November 3, 1995. Because deletion of the adenovirus E4 region is a lethal mutation to adenoviruses, these recombinant adenoviruses are packaged in a 293-E4 cell, which is stably transfected with nucleic acid comprising the entire adenovirus E4 region under the control of the inducible promoter. The only adenovirus E4 region protein expressed by this E4 region-deleted adenoviruses is the E4orf4 protein, and that in very low amounts.

When endothelial cells are transduced with this W9-encoding adenovirus lacking both the E1 region and the E4 region, the cells show an inhibited ability to undergo angiogenesis in both the matrigel tube assay and the aortic ring sprouting assay. Accordingly, the E4 region of adenovirus, or a protein (or active fragment) encoded thereby, is not involved in the angiogenesis-inhibiting activity of AV-W9 (the singly deleted Δ E1 adenovirus encoding W9).

EXAMPLE XII

Angiogenesis-Inhibiting Activity of Recombinant Lentiviruses Expressing CDKi Fusion Proteins

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A second virus-based delivery vehicle for the CDKi fusion proteins is generated. Here, a lentivirus vector previously described (see Dull et al. (1998) *J. Virol.* 72:8463-8471) is used to generate recombinant lentiviruses encoding W9, W7, p16, and p27. Transgenes similar to those described in Example III (*i.e.*, a transgene consisting of CMV enhancer/promoter-CDKi insert-SV40 polyA) are inserted into the lentivirus transfer vector, pRRL.sin-18, between the splice

acceptor cite and the 3' LTR (Dull et al., *supra*). These lentivirus-expressed CDKi are generated such that they do not have the 6 His, HA tag.

The recombinant lentiviruses are packaged essentially as described in Dull et al., supra. The recombinant lentiviruses are used to transduce endothelial cells according to the methods generally described above for the recombinant adenoviruses. For example, for CAEC cells, the cells are seeded at 1.3×10^4 or 3×10^4 cells/well in a 24 well plate in EBM media supplemented with 5% FBS. The following day, the media is aspirated, and new media (1 ml/well) is added with or without polybrene at a final concentration of 8pg/ml. The cells are then transduced with an equivalent number of viral particles of lentiviruses encoding W7, W9, p16, or p27. Twenty-four hours following transduction, the media of the cells is changed, and angiogenesis-inhibiting activity, as measured by the matrigel tube assay and/or the aortic ring sprouting assay, is tested 48 hours later (i.e., three days post-transduction).

In a slight modification, a second form of recombinant lentivirus is generated encoding CDKi fusion proteins of the invention. Fig. 14A illustrates a representative recombinant lentivirus vector containing a W9 expression cassette (i.e., W9-encoding nucleic acid sequence operably linked to regulatory sequences) flanked by HIV LTRS. Downstream of the 5' LTR, the vector contains the HIV leader sequence, the major 5' splice donor site (SD), the packaging sequence (\Psi), the first 43 bps of the HIV gag gene, the HIV Rev Response Element (RRE), and the splice acceptor sites (SA) of the second exon of HIV tat and HIV rev. This vector may be packaged according to standard techniques to generate a recombinant lentivirus that encodes W9 (see Dull et al., supra).

Another recombinant lentiviral vector is shown on Fig. 14B. This self-inactivating lentiviral vector contains a W9 expression cassette flanked by a 5'

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HIV LTR having a substituted U3 region and a 3' HIV LTR, or a 5' HIV LTR and a deleted 3' HIV LTR. This vector further contains downstream from the 5' LTR and HIV leader sequence, the major 5' SD, Ψ , the first 43 bps of the gag gene, the RRE, and the SA of the second exon at tat and rev (see Naldini et al. (1996) Science 272:263-267).

These studies show that W9 delivered by lentivirus in the absence of any adenovirus-encoded proteins induces angiogenesis-inhibition in endothelial cells.

EXAMPLE XIII

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Purified W9 Protein Has Angiogenesis-Inhibiting Activity

The W9 fusion CDKi protein and other fusion CDKi proteins of the invention (including W7 and W3), as well as parental proteins p16, p27, p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, and p27₂₅₋₉₃ are purified from 293 cells transduced with the respective AV-CDKi. With the exception of p16, the fusion CDKi and parental protein are purified over an affinity column using anti-p27 antibody. One such antibody is the p27/Kip1 antibody commercially available from Transduction Laboratories, Lexington, KY. The p16 protein is purified from 293 cells transduced with AV-p16 using an anti-p16 antibody. One such antibody is the p16-C20, which is commercially available from Santa Cruz Biotech., Santa Cruz, CA.

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The purified proteins are then used in the aortic ring assay to detect an angiogenesis-inhibiting activity. In this method, rat aortic rings are prepared as described above and plated on matrigel basement membrane coated wells of a 24 well plate. The rings are then covered with endothelial cell media to which has been added nothing (positive control), and various amounts of the following purified proteins: p16, p27, p27₁₂₋₁₇₈, and p27₂₅₋₉₃, W9, W7, and W3. After

incubation for seven days, the rings are photographed. Although several of the purified proteins show an angiogenesis-inhibiting effect, purified W9 has the strongest angiogenesis-inhibiting effect at the lowest concentration.

EOUIVALENTS

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As will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains, the present invention may be embodied in forms other than those specifically disclosed above without departing from the spirit or essential characteristics of the invention. The particular embodiments of the invention described above, are, therefore, to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is as set forth in the appended claims rather than being limited to the examples contained in the foregoing description.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising transducing an endothelial cell with an effective amount of a replication-deficient recombinant virus that comprises a transgene encoding a mammalian cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the transduced endothelial cell is inhibited, and wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof; a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof; and a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant virus is selected from the group consisting of an adenovirus, a lentivirus, a retrovirus, an SV-40 virus, an Epstein Barr virus, a herpesvirus, an adeno-associated virus and a pox virus.

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- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein.
- 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9.

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5. The method of claim 4 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W9.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the endothelial cell is in a mammal.

- 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the endothelial cell and migration is caused by a condition selected from the group consisting of neoplasia, rheumatoid arthritis, vascular retinopathy, endometriosis, and psoriasis.
 - 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the condition is neoplasia.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is internalizable.
- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the cyclin dependant kinase inhibitor is secretable.

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11. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising contacting an endothelial cell with an effective amount of a liposome that comprises a transgene encoding a mammalian cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the transgene is internalized by the endothelial cell, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the contacted endothelial cell is inhibited, and wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof; a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment of the protein from the INK4 family and at least an active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the liposome contains on its external surface a molecule that binds to a cell surface protein on the endothelial cell, wherein binding of the molecule to the cell surface protein facilitates the internalization.

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- 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein.
- 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9.

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- 15. The method of claim 11 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is internalizable.
- 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is secretable.

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17. A method for inhibiting angiogenesis comprising contacting a target endothelial cell with a mammalian internalizable cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein proliferation and/or migration of the target endothelial cell is inhibited, and wherein the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of a protein from the INK4 family or an active fragment thereof, a protein from the CIP/KIP family or an active fragment thereof, and a fusion protein comprising at least an active fragment of the protein from the INK4 family and at least an active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the active fragment of the protein from the CIP/KIP family is selected from the group consisting of amino acids 25-93 of human p27 protein and amino acids 12-178 of human p27 protein.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor is W7 or W9.

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- 20. The method of claim 17 further comprising delivering a transgene encoding the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor to an auxiliary cell, wherein the transgene is expressed by the auxiliary cell to produce the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, wherein the auxiliary cell releases the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor into the blood, and wherein the bloodborne cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor contacts the target endothelial cell.
- 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor comprises a secretable segment and the auxiliary cell releases the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor by secretion.

1/21 proliferation and migration to form new primitive vessel EC activation leads to Angiogenesi TEMOR INDUCED ANGIOGENE to the production of factors such as MMP and VEGF by ECs and surrounding stromal cells The tumor induces EC activation and leads (e.g smooth muscle cells) Basement membrane disruption by MMPs

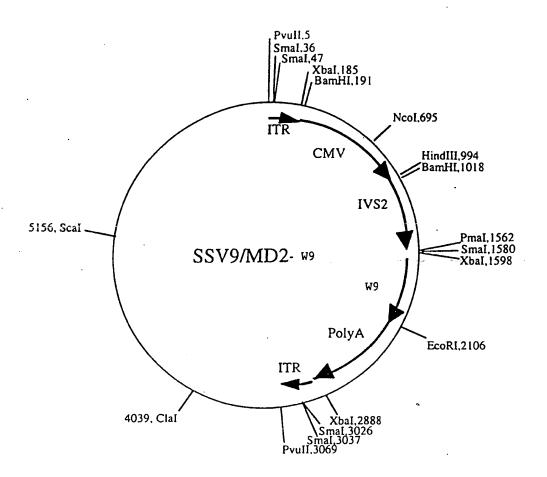


FIGURE 2

HSV amplicon

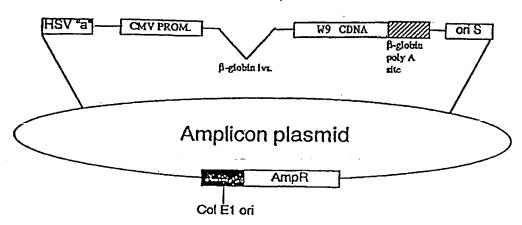


FIGURE 3A

HERPES SIMPLEX VIRUS VECTOR

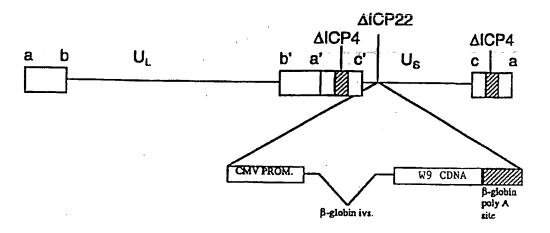


FIGURE 3B

SV40 VECTOR

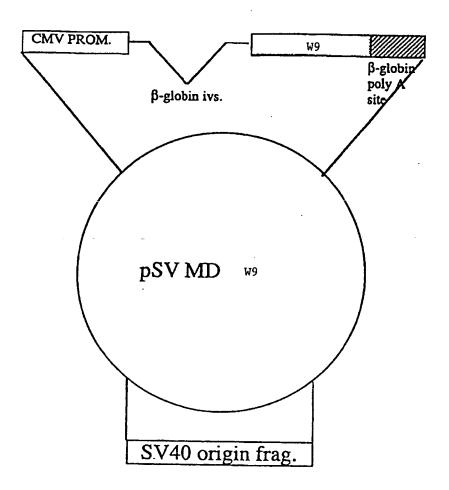


FIGURE 4A

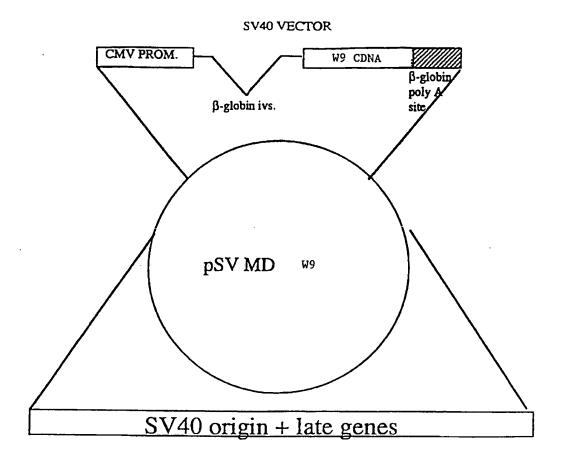


FIGURE 4B

VACCINIA VIRUS VECTOR

promoter	W9 CDNA	TAAATAAATAA		
		STOPS	term.	

FIGURE 5

		CDK4/ cyclin D1 (nM)	CDK2/ cyclin E (nM)	CDC2/ cyclin B (nM)		ff-Life hrs) As
p16	1 156	100	>1000	>1000	~3	~3
p27	1 198	23	^(*) 2:4 ^(*)	12	-3	~4. 5
Δρ27 ¹²⁻¹⁷⁸	12 178	· 52	11	44	<2	<1
25-93 Δp27	25 93	30	8.3	31	<1	<1
W3	1 198 2 156	17	3.0	18	~2.5	~G.5
W4	1 198/2 156	39	8.9	15		
ws	1 156 2 198	4.4	11	18		
W6 .	1 156/2 198	26	8.4	17		
W8	12 178 2 156	23	4.4	17		
W7	12 178/2 156	16	2.6	9.2	~3	~20
W10	25 93 2 156	38	3.0	17		
W9	25 93 /2 156	47	3.5	18	~2	-4.5
p27 + p16	1 156 1 198	25	1.7	12		

Figure 6

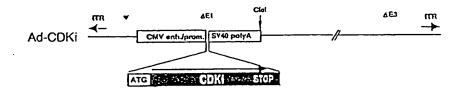


FIGURE 7

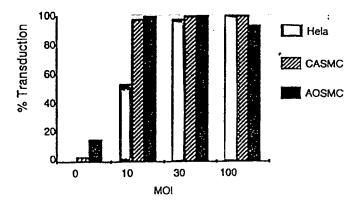


Figure 8A

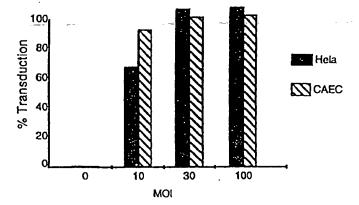


Figure 8B

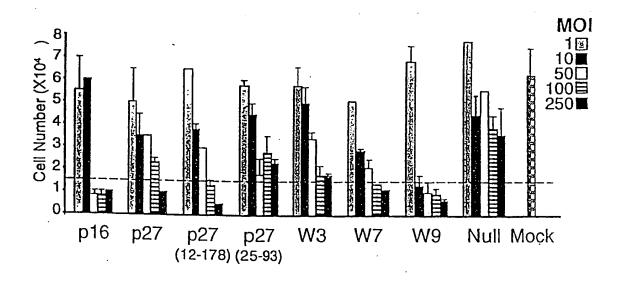


Figure 9

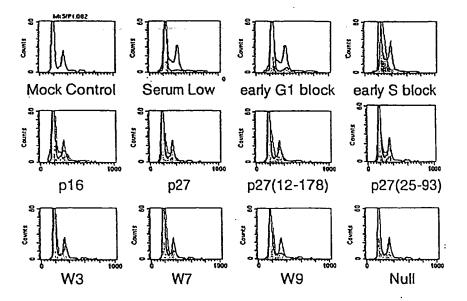


Figure 10A

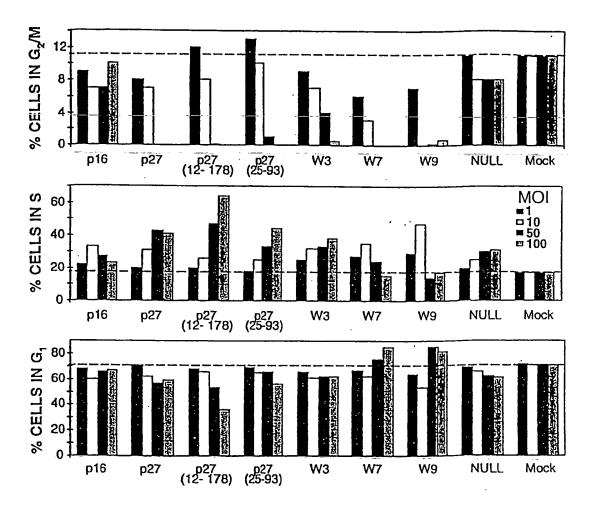
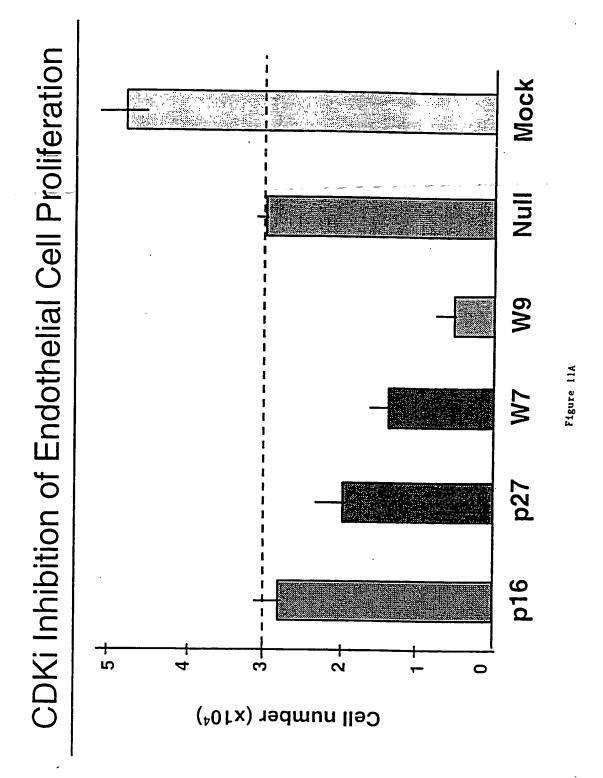


Figure 10B





CDKi Inhibition of Endothelial Cell Proliferation

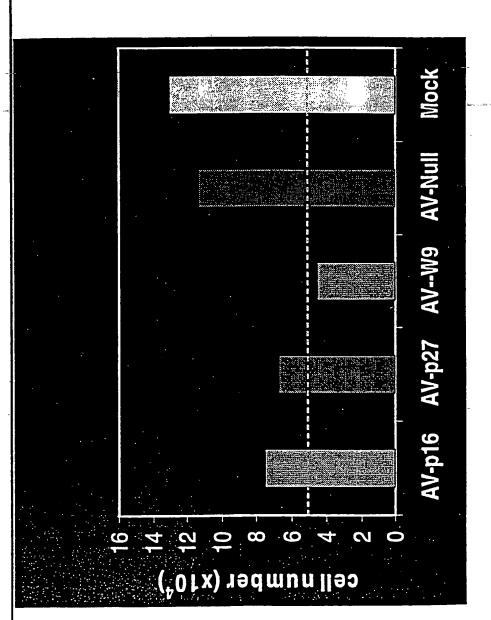
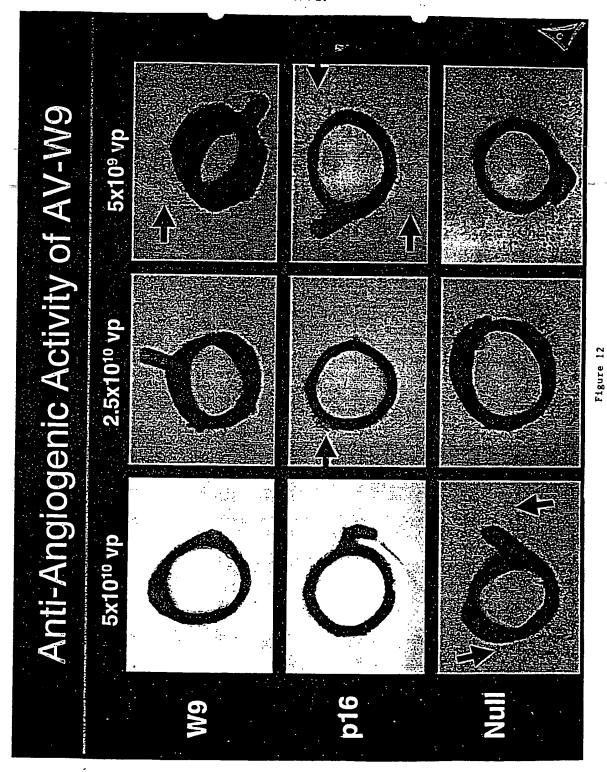
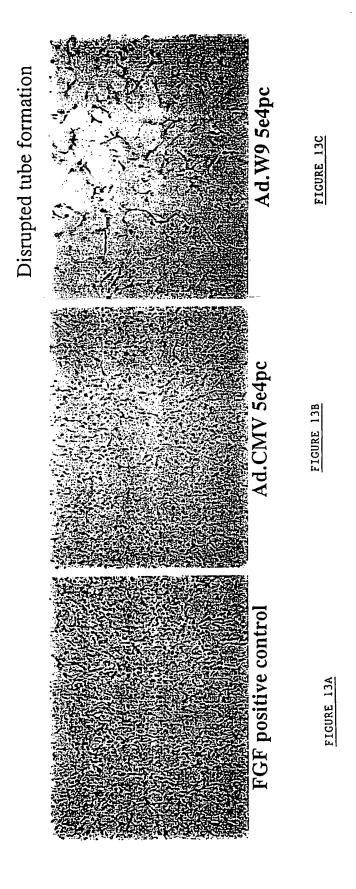


Figure 11B



Anti-Angiogenesis effect of AV-W9 in a Matrigel Tube Assay



Lentiviral Transfer Vector

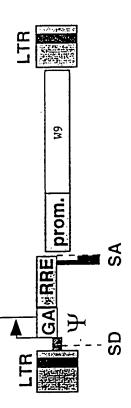


Figure 14/

Self-Inactivating Transfer Vector

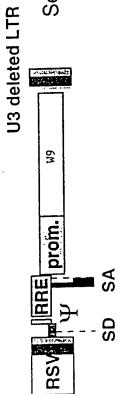


Figure 14B

mouse IgH constructs:

MKCSWVIFFLMAVVTGVNS -EFsignal sequence peptide

FIGURE 15A

tat = 1-72; 47-72; 47-58 and 48-60

p27 or W9

tat

human IgH constructs:

MDWTWRVFFLLAPGAHS signal sequence peptide HindIII-AvrII

FIGURE 15B

p27 or W9 tat 47-72

-Sall-Notl

human Serum Albumin constructs:

FIGURE 15C

signal sequence peptide

6₩

tat 47-58 HindIII-AvrII MKWVTFISLLFLFSSAYS

SEQUENCE LISTING

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Ser Ala Cys Arg Asn Leu Phe Gly Pro Val Asp His Glu Glu Leu Thr
         35
                             40
                                                 45
Arg Asp Leu Glu Lys His Cys Arg Asp Met Glu Glu Ala Ser Gln Arg
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Glu	Trp	Gln	Glu	Val 85	Glu	Lys	Gly	Ser	Leu 90	Pro	Glu	Phe	Tyr	Tyr 95	Arg
Pro	Pro	Arg	Pro 100	Pro	Lys	Gly	Ala	Cys 105	Lys	Val	Pro	Ala	Gln 110	Glu	Ser
Gln	Asp	Val 115	Ser	Gly	Ser	Arg	Pro 120	Ala	Ala	Pro	Leu	Ile 125	Gly	Ala	Pro
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern 1al Application No PCT/US 00/04970

A CLASS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		,
ÎPC 7	C12N15/12 C12N15/86 A61P9/0	00 A61P35/00	
According	to international Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classifi	ication and IDC	
	S SEARCHED	CAUGH AND IPC	
IPC /			
	ation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that		
	data base consulted during the international search (name of data b	ase and, where practical, search terms use	d)
EPO-Ir	nternal, BIOSIS		
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the re	elevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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